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WASHTENAW JEWISH NEWS

March 2019 Adar I/Adar II 5779 Volume XVIII: Number 6 FREE

Alicia Svigals Returns to Ann Arbor

Emily Slomovits, staff writer

In music, we often dub iconic performers the "King" or "Queen" of a genre, and if there were a vote as to who should be the Queen of Klezmer music, violinist Alicia Svigals would undoubtedly be unanimously selected. Her work in composition, teaching and performance with various bands would be more than enough to crown her, but did I mention she also co-founded the Klezmatics, arguably the world's most renowned klezmer group? And did I mention that she's coming to Ann Arbor on March 16th to give a solo concert at Temple Beth Emeth? I spoke to Svigals about her love for Klezmer, her vibrant career, and more.

WJN: Did you grow up in a musical household?

Svigals: I did grow up in a musical household; my mother played the piano and sang, and my grandfather was a professional pianist who, for a while, was Judy Garland's accompanist, and he played on Sid Caesar's Show of Shows. So, I grew up with a lot of music. When I was five, I was sent for violin lessons, and the whole family was very involved in the local music school. Klezmer was a genre that, in the time when I was growing up, was very alive and present. Never really at concerts, but at weddings, bar and bat mitzvahs,

Alicia Svigals

and so on. In the 60's and 70's, it went into hibernation, and then in the late 70's, the Klezmer revival started, when young musicians were rediscovering this music that people hadn't heard in 20 or 30 years. So, when I was growing up, there wasn't much Klezmer there, but my family listened to a radio station that had Yiddish language programming. Although they didn't play Klezmer, they played recordings of all the kinds of music that are related to Klezmer: Yiddish folk song recordings, cantorial recordings. I learned Yiddish songs at school, and so when the folk revival started when I was a teenager and I heard Andy Statman's recordings, it rang a bell because it was related to all this other music that I had already had in my life. And that was very exciting.

WJN: So, were you playing classical music before you were introduced to Klezmer?

Svigals: Yes, I was classically trained.

WJN: What was it about Klezmer music that you found interesting when you first started playing it?

Svigals: It's a very heartfelt music, very emotional, and at the same time, it can be musically very complex and technically challenging. There are modes that are non-Western modes, but are related to all sorts of other Middle-Eastern music, Greek music, Arabic music. I found it very compelling, and later, when I graduated college and

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URJ President Rabbi Rick Jacobs on the Future of American Judaism

Bette Cotzin and Robin Pollak, special to the WJN

Temple Beth Emeth is honored to welcome Rabbi Rick Jacobs, the president of the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ), to Ann Arbor on March 28-29, 2019. This is the first time any president of the URJ has visited Ann Arbor, and Rabbi Jacobs is especially excited to visit the hometown of the University of Michigan.

TBE is hosting a panel of thought-leaders on Thursday evening, March 28 at 7:30 pm at the University of Michigan Museum of Art auditorium. Moderated by Rabbi Josh Whinston, the panel will address the topic, "Facing the Future of American Judaism." The panel will consist of: Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President of the Union for Reform Judaism; Professor Deborah Dash Moore, Frederick G. L. Huetwell Professor of History and Judaic Studies; Professor Karla Goldman, Director, Jewish Communal Leadership Program, Sol Drachler Professor of Social Work; and Tilly Shames (Executive Director, U of M Hillel). The event is free and the community is invited to attend!

Rabbi Rick Jakobs

As the president of the URJ, Rabbi Jacobs provides inspirational leadership to an organization of almost 900 congregations and 1.5 million Reform Jews throughout North America. Rabbi Jacobs will be spending erev Shabbat, March 29 at TBE, with a special visit to UM Hillel as well.

Rabbi Jacobs was ordained in 1982 and spent his career as an innovative and dynamic synagogue rabbi until becoming the president of the URJ in 2012. Deeply committed to the State of Israel, Rabbi Jacobs has studied for two decades at Jerusalem's Shalom Hartman Institute, where he is now a senior rabbinic fellow.

He has traveled widely to address global social justice issues. These humanitarian missions have included a visit to the Chad-Darfur border area in 2005 to witness the plight of Darfur refugees, and participation in 2009 in an annual conference of Muslim and Christian leaders, held in Qatar, designed to build understanding between the West and the Muslim world.

Pope Francis granted Rabbi Jacobs a private audience in 2017 to discuss worldwide promotion of peace and collaboration through interreligious dialogue, strategies for assisting immigrants and refugees, and learning to love one's neighbor as oneself. Rabbi Jacobs wrote, "At the end he asked that we pray together. We stood, we held hands – he blessed me in Italian then I blessed him in Hebrew, with the ancient words of the Priestly Benediction. It will remain one of the most profoundly spiritual and memorable moments of my life."

The URJ – founded in 1873 – strives to build communities that help people connect to their Judaism; enrich and energize worship; deepen Jewish learning; help congregations be welcoming, adept and responsive; inspire young people to embrace their Judaism; work for a more

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Israeli war correspondent Itai Anghel on ISIS

Eileen Freed, special to the WJN

The Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor and Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor are proud to present "ISIS: The Day After – A Look from Within," a lecture by renowned Israeli war correspondent and documentarian, Itai Anghel, Wednesday, April 3, 7 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center.

Itia Anghel

In the past few years, historic changes have been occurring in the Middle East. As sovereign states disintegrate, millions are fleeing, changing not only the Middle East, but the European continent as well. This mayhem has been associated with the rise of a force that is more organized and ruthless than has been seen before – the Islamic State (ISIS).

ISIS has spent years orchestrating massacres in Iraq and Syria, forcing their extreme radical Islam on civilian populations in horrific ways and attempting to form an Islamic caliphate to rule the Middle East. Today, due to the joint international effort to defeat the organization, the Islamic State is battling for its survival, but its jihadist ideology remains. In the meantime, on the ruins of the Islamic State, an unprecedented Shia crescent makes Iran the dominant force in Syria, Iraq and South Lebanon.

Itai Anghel – awarded Israel's highest journalism award, the Sokolov Prize, in 2017 – has extensive experience in the region. As the only Israeli journalist who has covered Syria and Iraq including the fall of Saddam Hussein and Islamic State, he has spent significant time in both countries. In his lecture, he presents rare encounters with ISIS fighters, dynamic and updated maps of the region and exclusive pieces of his documentaries to help his audience understand the process that led to the rise and fall of the Islamic State and other jihadist elements in the region.

Mr. Anghel is one of the most prominent TV journalists in Israel. He is known for his unique field-work and in-depth documentaries. He has a unique ability to deeply and fearlessly explore the most dangerous hot-spots around the globe, while intimately connecting with all parties in-

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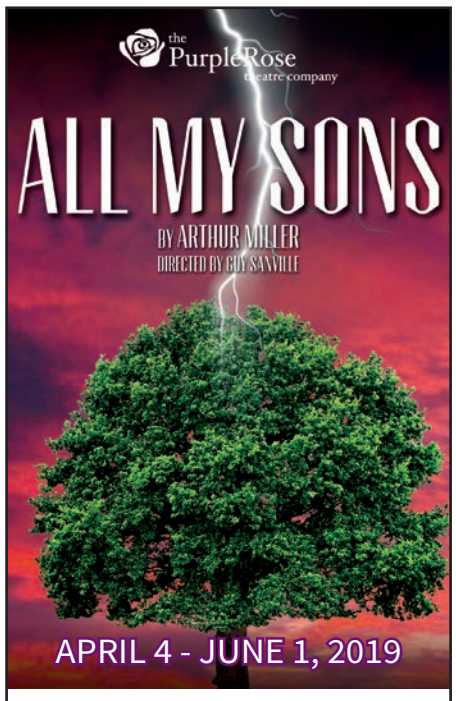

How far will a man go to protect his family and his interests? Joe Keller desperately wants to secure the business he spent so many years constructing, ready to hand it down to his son Chris. Joe's wife Kate is still waiting for their eldest son Larry to return from war, determined that he is alive and will marry the former girl-next-door, Ann, the daughter of Joe's former business partner. To complicate this family drama, Chris and Ann are in love and want to get married. ***All My Sons*** shows a post-war American family in a spiral of lies, greed, love, and loss.

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From the Editor

What an odd time to become a newspaper editor/publisher. On January 16, 2019 the 121-year-old *Forward* announced it was ceasing print publication and laying off 20 percent of its staff, including its Editor-in-Chief, Jane Eisner, and many other news and arts editors. The *Forward* is going all-digital-only.

Clare Kinberg

I've been reading and depending on the news and culture reported in the *Forward* since it began its English language supplement in 1983 (from 1897-1983 the *Forverts* was Yiddish-only). I'll continue to read it online. Like most everyone else, I will typically pick and choose news that interests me, that reflects my point of view, and affirms my opinions of others.

I am convinced, though, that local newspapers, like the *WJN*, may follow a different trajectory. Last year, I started hearing about the come-back of independent bookstores, which, after decades of decline, are now growing. Despite cheaper and more convenient ways to buy books online, by offering events and a curated selection, local bookstores turn a consumer purchase into an act of community-building.

I think local newspapers have a similar potential. I'm still feeling my way along this path, discovering ways to include more local news and opinions, more local hooks into national news, more ways that a local, independent newspaper can strengthen our community.

With a newspaper, you hold in your hand the work and views of many, the happenings of people you may run into at the grocery store. Even when you flip to the news that interests you, your eye may slip over to something else. A community newspaper is an opportunity for everyone in the community to experience the same news, opinions, stories during the same time period. It's a "community-read" event, a community-building block. ■

Alicia Svigal continued from page 1

started playing Klezmer for the first time, I got a job playing in a Greek nightclub in New York. So, I was immersed in this Greek style of music at the same time, and there was a lot of overlap, especially with the modes. The combination of this very emotive and ecstatic, sometimes tragic style of music, and the interest in the non-Western elements of it, really drew me to it.

WJN: Do you play and compose much in other styles, and if so, how is your interpretation of that music affected by the Klezmer technique you have?

Svigals: I compose music for silent films and play the scores live, and I incorporate a lot of different styles in them. Sometimes it'll be classical, sometimes 19th Century Romantic style; in one of them, there's a Romantic style concerto cadenza [a part of a piece where the soloist plays an extended section completely by themselves] without the concerto. I've done European 19th Century ballroom dance music. I often get a chance at parties to play jazz, rock, blues, I still get the occasional Greek gig. I keep my fingers in a lot of different musical styles. I try to really learn each style so that it's not influenced in any undeliberate way. I think that when I was developing my Klezmer fiddle style, I did draw on the Turkish and Greek fiddle styles that I learned, in particular the timbre. I kind of created my own Klezmer style that doesn't exactly replicate old recordings. If I'm playing a big rock solo, I'll throw some Klezmer or Greek in there too sometimes.

WJN: How did the Klezmatics get started?

Svigals: A mysterious clarinetist in 1985 placed an ad in the *Village Voice* music section in the back of the paper, where musicians would go to find work. He placed an ad saying he wanted to form a Klezmer band, and I answered it, and Frank London answered it, and Lorin Sklamberg. We were brought together by him, but he disappeared after a few weeks, and no one ever heard from him again. One of the things that the Klezmatics brought to the Klezmer revival was improvisation. The people in the band partly came from a jazz background, and we started to add a lot of open improvisation, which hadn't been part of the Klezmer tradition, except in a much more restricted, defined way. So, I'm always trying to learn more about improvising and bring it into what I'm doing.

WJN: What can the audience expect from your solo concert at TBE? Do you play solo often?

Svigals: I just started doing it; it's going to be one of my first forays into it. What I do is accompany my own melodies on the violin, kind of like Bach unaccompanied Sonatas and Partitas, where there's hints of harmony and rhythm dropped in just enough to outline it. I've worked up arrangements of Klezmer tunes that way, as a one-woman band, and then I also accompany myself when I'm singing, too.

WJN: While in Ann Arbor, you'll also be performing as part of the U of M School of Social Work's Jewish Feminisms Conference. How did that come about?

Svigals: I was in Ann Arbor a few months ago at the Michigan Theatre, doing *The Yellow Ticket*, which is a very female movie about a young woman in a shtetl in Poland who wants to study medicine in St. Petersburg. The conference organizer came to the show, and invited me to speak at the conference. So, I'll be speaking, but also doing a little bit of playing too.

WJN: Are you promoting any new material right now that you'd like to talk about?

Svigals: I have a new album out called *Beregovski Suite*, and it's long-lost music from the Ukraine that a Soviet Jewish musicologist recorded on field trips in the 20s, 30s and 40s. They were lost for decades, and eventually popped up again in the 1990s. I have a project with a jazz pianist where we take these melodies and add harmonies and improvisations, while playing really traditionally. So, it's very traditional fiddling, with a more contemporary harmonic palette. For more information, visit aliciasvigals.com.

Alicia Svigals will be at Temple Beth Emeth on March 16 at 7 p.m. She will also be at the Jewish Feminisms/American Visions Conference on a 3:30 p.m. panel, "Claiming Identities: Lesbian Jews, Radical Politics, and Secular Jewish Culture," with Evelyn Torton Beck, Irena Klepfisz, and Elana Dykewomon, moderated by Alice Mishkin, and will give a short performance at the evening discussion (7 –9 p.m.), "#MeToo in the Context of Jewish Feminism," with Nylah Burton, Susan Weidman Schneider, Keren McGinity, and Ronit Stahl, moderated by Kirsten Fermaglich. ■

WASHTENAW JEWISH NEWS

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Signed letters to the editor are welcome; they should not exceed 400 words. Letters can be emailed to the editor. Name will be withheld at the discretion of the editor.

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The deadline for the April 2019 issue of the *Washtenaw Jewish News* is Friday, March 8.
Publication date: Tuesday, April 30

Extra copies of the *Washtenaw Jewish News* are available at locations throughout Washtenaw County.

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Service–Learning at JFS Kids Care Fair

Jacob Singer, special to the WJN

Jewish Family Services (JFS) is hosting its fifth annual Kids Care Fair on Sunday, March 17 from 3– 5 p.m. at Washtenaw Community College in the Morris Lawrence Building, "because today's kids who care are tomorrow's leaders." Sarah Hong, JFS

Director of Programs and Outreach had this to say, "The goal of this program is to instill young children with compassion, awareness and civic-mindedness. It follows the Jewish adage of *tikkun olam*, repairing the world." This event will engage and energize children and youth in the community about service and giving back.

Last year, over 200 children participated in the service learning activities that included disability awareness & sensitivity activities, W.A.T.E.R. safety, therapy pets, and multiple themed arts & crafts stations focusing on values such as gratitude, "welcoming the stranger," and kindness to older adults. JFS is thrilled to be partnering with many local community organizations to deliver this important annual event. This year's activity partners include Alpha House, American Red Cross, Ann Arbor District Library, Ann Arbor Police Department, Ann Arbor YMCA, Beth Israel Congregation, Bird Center of Washtenaw County, Blue Ocean Faith, Food Gatherers, Fotofoto, Goldfish Swim School, Gym America, Hebrew Day School, Huron River Watershed Council, JCC of Ann Arbor, SafeHouse Center, Safe Kids Huron Valley, Temple Beth Emeth, Therapaws, and JFS' Resettlement Department and Food Pantry! Refreshments will be served by Amanda's Kitchen.

This year's fair will have many new activity partners whose focus is on science. The Huron River Watershed Council will be participating this year and leading an activity where kids will get a chance to learn more about different kinds of bugs. From 4:30-5 p.m. the fair will conclude with a science show delivered by Mad Science of Detroit.

The Kids Care Fair's fun activities are designed for elementary school aged children and their families, but there is an additional layer of service-learning for "the big kids." Older community youth from local organiza-

tions are themselves planning, organizing and executing activity stations at the Kids Care Fair.

Tickets are on sale now with all proceeds benefitting JFS family programs. Tickets are $25 per family or $50 for a host family. No family will be turned away due to an inability to pay. Sliding scale tickets are readily available online at the time of registration. For more information about the JFS Kids Care fair and to register, visit www.jfsannarbor.org/kids-care-fair. Any teens or community partners interested in learning more about participating in the Kids Care Fair as activity partners or volunteers should email Jacob Singer at jsinger@jfsannarbor.org. ■

Ann Arbor Jewish Film Festival Partners with Cinetopia

Karen Freedland, special to the WJN

For 2019 the Ann Arbor Jewish Film Festival (A2JFF) has been invited by Russ Collins, director of the Michigan Theater, to partner with Cinetopia, a major annual Southeast Michigan film festival held in Ann Arbor, Detroit, and Royal Oak. The Ann Arbor Jewish Film Festival will be held May 12, 2019 through May 16, 2019, and will now be encompassed by Cinetopia, which runs May 10, 2019 through May 19, 2019. As both festivals' dates overlapped, the festivals joining together to support one another simply made the most sense. The A2JFF will continue to remain a separate, 5 day encapsulated festival, maintaining its identity as the premier local festival for showcasing the Jewish global experience through film. However, the partnership with Cinetopia will bring the broad range of Jewish films presented by the A2JFF to a wider audience from all over Southeast Michigan.

This new partnership affords special status for Ann Arbor Jewish Film Festival sponsor pass holders, as an A2JFF sponsor pass will also include entry to Cinetopia films, as well as a single entry to the A2JFF Sponsor Dinner and other festivities that Cinetopia pass holders enjoy. Sponsors will enjoy 10 days of movies, speakers, parties, and more. A2JFF sponsorships will be available starting April 12, 2019 through both the Michigan Theater and the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor.

For anyone wishing to support the A2JFF or who would like more information, please contact Karen Freedland, the Ann Arbor JCC director of Jewish cultural arts and education, at karenfreedland@jccannarbor.org or by calling (734) 971-0990. ■

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Morris Lawrence Building

All ticket proceeds directly benefit JFS family programs, including specialty food pantry and refugee resettlement services.

jfsannarbor.org/kidscarefair

Kids Care Fair features hands on experiences to engage elementary-aged kids and families with community service and the joy of giving back.

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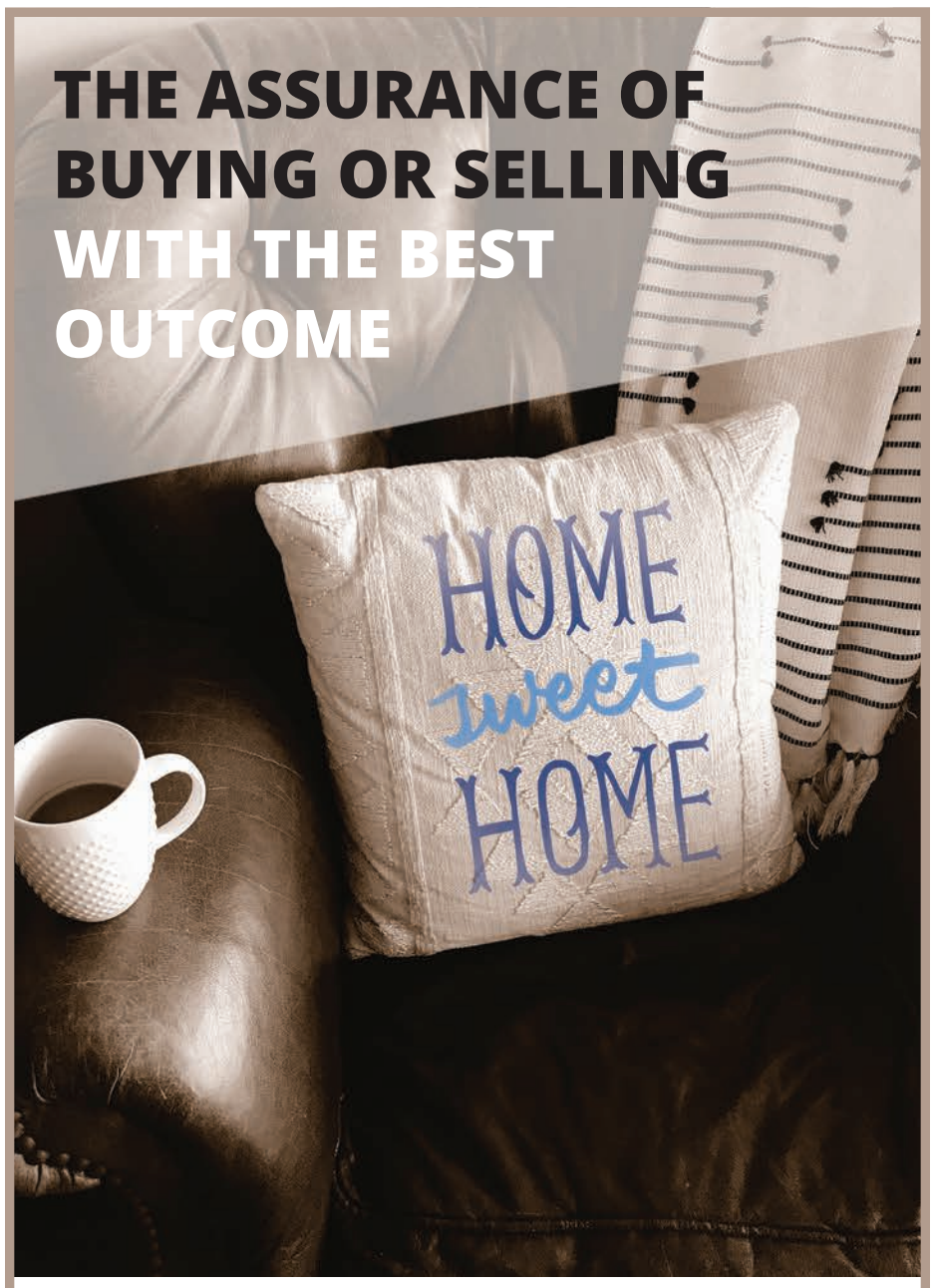

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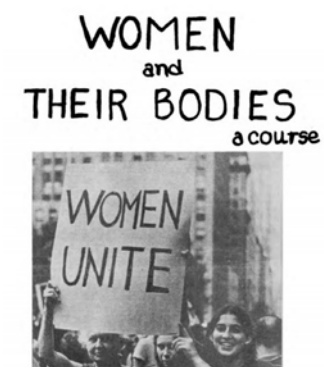
Frankel Events

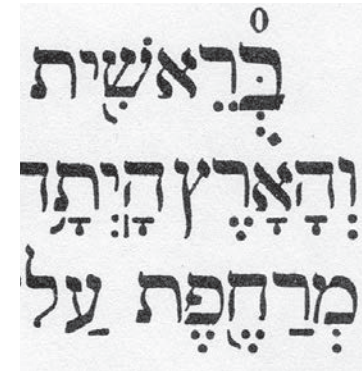
March 2019

29th David W. Belin Lecture in American Jewish Affairs
Prisoners of Zion: American Jews, Human Rights, and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
March 12, 6:30 pm reception, 7:00 pm lecture
James Loeffler, University of Virginia
Palmer Commons, Forum Hall, 100 Washtenaw Ave.



Jewish Feminisms / American Visions: Perspectives from Fifty Years of Activism
March 13-15
Participants include: Joyce Antler, Elli Meeropol, Heather Booth, Irena Klepfisz, Clare Kinberg, Keren McGinity, Deborah Dash Moore, Alicia Svigals, and Judith Rosenbaum
School of Social Work Building, 1080 S. University Ave.

"Race" in Christianity and Islam: the Case of Converts from Judaism
March 19, 4:00 PM
David Nirenberg, University of Chicago
Room 2022, 202 S. Thayer St.



Influence of Biblical Cantillations on Art Music in the 20th and 21st Centuries
March 26, 4:00 PM
Jascha Nemstov, pianist and musicologist
Room 2022, 202 S. Thayer St.

Institute Symposium: Sephardic Identities, Medieval and Early Modern
March 27 & 28, 8:45 am - 6:45 pm
U-M Frankel Institute Fellows and guest speakers: Miriam Bodian, Matt Goldish, Harvey J. Hames, Mark Meyerson, and Jonathan Ray
Rackham Assembly Hall, 915 E. Washington St.

All events are free and open to the public. If you have a disability that requires an accommodation, please contact the Frankel Center

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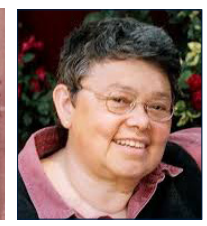
Ground-breaking Jewish Feminists Meet in Ann Arbor

Paige Walker, JCLP Program Coordinator, special to the WJN

What could bring Irena Klepfisz, Elana Dykewomon, Judith Plaskow, Evelyn Torton Beck, Heather Booth, Joyce Antler, Karen Brodkin, Miriam Hawley, Vivian Rothstein, Marilyn Webb, Elli Meeropol, Rayna Rapp, Martha Acklesberg, Marlaee Gordon, Alicia Svigals, Nylah Burton, Susan Weidman Schneider, Kate Rosenblatt, Karen McGinity, Ronit Stahl, Kirsten Fermaglich, Ayelet Cohen, Marcia Freedman, Letty Cottin Pogrebin, April Baskin, Georgette Kennebrae, Judith Rosenbaum, Samira Mehta, and Marla Brettschneider to Ann Arbor in the middle of March? Perhaps only the opportunity to meet with other local Jewish feminists including Karla Goldman, Deborah Dash Moore, Clare Kinberg, Alice Mishkin, Alana Alpert, Tilly Shames, and scores of activists, writers, and change-makers.

Building on the interpretations offered by historian Joyce Antler in her recent book, *Jewish Radical Feminism: Voices from the Women's Liberation Movement*, activists from the 1960s through today will reexamine the contexts, experiences, and identities that went into creating American feminism and its impact on Jewish culture, politics, and religion. The Jewish Communal Leadership Program at the University of Michigan School of Social Work and the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, working in partnership with the Jewish Women's Archive, present a two and a half day symposium entitled: Jewish Feminisms/American Visions: Perspectives from Fifty Years of Activism. This historic event taking place March 13 through 15 brings together 36 pioneering and contemporary feminists to consider the role of Jewish identity in the framing and development of second wave American feminism. The entire symposium will take place on the University of Michigan's Central Campus – at the School of Social Work and U-M Museum of Art. The events are free, however registration is required.

Georgette Kennebrae


Elana Dykewomon

Joyce Antler

Heather Booth

Jewish Feminisms/American Visions kicks off Wednesday, March 13 at 7 p.m. at the University of Michigan Museum of Art (UMMA) (525 S. State Street) with a welcome reception and screening of the film *Heather Booth: Changing the World* followed by a discussion with the well-known community organizer and activist namesake of the film. The Thursday, March 14 events, which take place at the School of Social Work (1080 S. University Ave), start with registration and a continental breakfast at 8:30 a.m., followed by a day of a variety of panels. JCLP Program Director and Sol Drachler Professor of Social Work, School of Social Work, and Professor of Judaic Studies, Dr. Karla Goldman offers welcome remarks and Dr. Joyce Antler (Samuel J. Lane Professor Emerita of American Jewish History and Culture and Professor Emerita of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Brandeis University) offers the introduction at 9 a.m.. The schedule through the rest of the day, ending at 5 p.m., includes sessions titled *From Radical to Feminist, Periphery to the Core: The View from Ann Arbor, Adding Jewish to Feminist, Claiming Identities: Lesbian Jews, Radical Politics, and Secular Jewish Culture.* After a break for dinner, the group reconvenes at the School of Social Work from 7-9 p.m. for a panel entitled *#MeToo in the Context of Jewish Feminism* and includes a short performance by world renowned Klezmer violinist Alicia Svigals.

The events continue on to Friday, March 15 at the School of Social Work at 8:15 a.m. with registration and continental breakfast. The sessions for the day start off at 8:45 a.m. and include *Feminisms/Jewish Feminisms and the Complication(s) of Israel* and *Contemporary Leaders Consider the Legacies of Feminism.* The Friday sessions wrap-up by 12 p.m.. All are invited for a debrief and reflection session 12:30-2 p.m. with current U-M students. Lunch is provided on Thursday and Friday (during the reflection panel) for those who register. All are invited to come for the sessions and events when they can. It is not required to attend all. To RSVP, please go to: ssw.umich.edu/r/Pa8 .

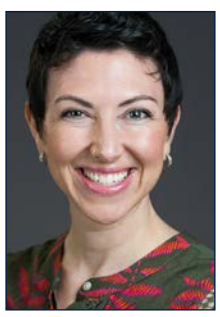
Feminist opportunities for engagement around Ann Arbor and for the Jewish Communal Leadership Program don't end Friday afternoon! The weekend offers a myriad of women-centered events. On Saturday, March 16th, there is the *Women March on For Justice* rally and march 2-4 p.m. at the U-M Diag followed later by *Alicia Svigals: An Evening of Klezmer Fiddle and Yiddish Song* concert 7-9 p.m. at Temple Beth Emeth. Sunday, March 17 offers The Jewish Communal Leadership Program's Annual Communal Conversation: The Jewish Future is Feminist 12-3 p.m. at the School of Social Work and *Never a Bystander*-Documentary Showing about Irene Butter 4-6 p.m. at Beth Israel Congregation.

Mid-March will be feminist! Join the U-M School of Social Work Jewish Communal Leadership Program for a series of memorable discussions and experiences. For questions or information on how to register, please call 734-764-5392 or email jewish-feminisms@umich.edu. ■

JCLP Communal Conversation: Future of Jewish Feminism

Emily Cloch '19 and Jordyn Rosenzweig '19, special to the WJN

The world is changing and so is Jewish feminism. Controversies surrounding the National Women's March (January 2019) brought Jewish feminism to the forefront of many major Jewish publications. At this critical juncture, the Jewish Communal Leadership Program (JCLP) Class of 2019 is excited to bring together three unique individuals who center feminism as a Jewish value. April Baskin, Rabbi Lizzi Heydemann and Sarah Hurwitz will participate in a Communal Conversation on Sunday, March 17 to explore how individuals relate the legacies of Jewish feminism to what it means to confront today's opportunities and challenges. This public program is the fifth annual Communal Conversation, completely created, organized, and facilitated by second year JCLP students during the Winter semester.


Lizzie Heydemann

Sarah Hurwitz

April Baskin

These inspiring and pioneering women are bringing together traditional and innovative approaches in order to create communities that center women, Jews of Color, gender nonconforming people, and other marginalized peoples. Each of these individuals build innovative Jewish communities, expand boundaries, open doors and break through ceilings. As the former Director of Audacious Hospitality for the Union for Reform Judaism and now an independent community organizer, April Baskin centers voices of Jews of Color and the LGBTQIA+ community. The founder of Mishkan Chicago, Rabbi Lizzi Heydemann, redefines and revitalizes Jewish congregational life. Sarah Hurwitz, former speechwriter for Michelle and President Barack Obama, now works to empower women and build their voices in politics and beyond. April Baskin, Rabbi Lizzi Heydemann and Sarah Hurwitz are critically thinking about the challenges facing Jewish feminism today. Together, their voices offer a guide in building the Jewish feminist future.

As a cohort, the excitement within the JCLP second year student group for this program has been rapidly increasing. Since the conception of this event back in August, the program has begun to take on a multiplicity of meanings as issues affecting women have become more prevalent than ever. The second year students of JCLP hope to cultivate a space where individuals can feel challenged and inspired to reflect on the role that feminism holds in their lives.

This exciting event, which is a part of the larger Jewish Feminisms/American Visions conference March 13-15, will take place on Sunday, March 17 at the U-M School of Social Work (1080 S. University Ave) in the Educational Conference Center (Room 1840). Doors open at noon for registration and mingling over kosher hor d'oeuvres. The program will run 12:30 – 3 p.m. We hope that you can join JCLP for a memorable afternoon! For question or to RSVP, please email JCLP Program Coordinator Paige Walker at vpwalker@umich.edu.

Emily Cloch and Jordyn Rosenzweig are both members of the Class of 2019 of the Jewish Communal Leadership Program and study Interpersonal Practice. ■

JYP and jUnion Go Skating

Jessica Weil, special to the WJN

Ann Arbor's Jewish Young Professionals (JYP) and jUnion: The Michigan Graduate Student Union enjoyed an afternoon of togetherness and ice skating. In addition to meeting new friends and reconnecting, they had the opportunity to learn ice skating techniques from Anna Kuljian, a UM physical therapy graduate student and former competitive figure skater. This is only one of the many fun and engaging programs offered by JYP and jUnion.

To get involved, contact Jessica Weil, Outreach & Program Coordinator at the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor at Jessica@jewishannarbor.org or 734-677-0100, ext. 227. For more information, visit www.jewishannarbor.org or the Jewish Young Professionals of Greater Ann Arbor on Facebook and Instagram. ■

Conflict of Interest

Sharyn J. Gallatin, Esq., special to the WJN

The Maimonides and Cardozo Societies of the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor present a symposium on Conflict of Interest on Sunday, March 10, 2019, 9 a.m. – noon at the Kellogg Eye Center, 1000 Wall Street. The event commences with brunch at 9 a.m. to be followed at 10 a.m. by the panel discussion.

The symposium panel, Tiana Korley, JD and Dan Hayes, MD, will discuss the issue of conflict of interest as it relates to those who fail to list board memberships on and payments from pharmaceutical companies who are directly involved in their research. This invariably creates a bias towards the pharmaceutical companies in research and has become a real problem, being featured in the *New York Times Magazine* in December 2018 about a medical director of Sloane-Kettering in New York who failed to list his conflicts of interest. After the panel presentation, participants will have the opportunity to engage in discussion with the experts.

Ms. Korley joined the University of Michigan Office of the Vice President and General Counsel (OGC) in 2015. She provides legal advice on research-related matters, as well as regulatory issues, including interpretation and guidance on fraud and abuse laws. Prior to joining OGC, Ms. Korley was a policy consultant at the MITRE Corporation, which operates Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) federally-funded research and development center, the CMS Alliance to Modernize Healthcare. She has experience as a staff member and counsel for the US House of Representatives Ways and Means Subcommittee on Health and has served as Senior Advisor to the Deputy Administrator for Program Integrity at CMS focusing on program integrity regulations.

Dr. Hayes, an esteemed oncologist specializing in breast cancer, and a professor at the University of Michigan, is the former President of the American Society of Clinical Oncology, the lobbying organization of American oncology. He will bring a unique perspective to this issue.

"In presenting this topic, The Maimonides and Cardozo Societies are responding to the requests of many community members. It is clearly of vital interest," said Maimonides Steering Committee chair Jonathan Trobe. "We look forward to being informed by experts and generating lively discussion."

The Maimonides Society aims to provide opportunities for education and leadership for the community's physicians and dentists, whose skill and compassion do so much to care for those in need. Named for Rabbi Moses ben Maimon (also known as Maimonides or Rambam), this society is the place for physicians and dentists who are committed to *tikkun olam* (repairing the world).

The Cardozo Society aims to strengthen relationships among Jewish attorneys, judges and law students in Ann Arbor through education and leadership, while working together to enhance the quality of Jewish life in Ann Arbor and throughout the world. The society is named for Benjamin Nathan Cardozo, a Jewish-American lawyer and jurist who served as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

Members of both societies are leaders in the Jewish community who contribute $1,800 or more to the 2019 Annual Community Campaign of the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor.

The Maimonides & Cardozo Societies Symposium is free of charge and open to the public. Pre-registration is required. Register on-line at www.jewishannarbor.org or contact Isaac Ellis at isaac@jewishannarbor.org or (734) 677-0100, ext. 245. ■

Engage! with Chai Mitzvah

Marci Sukenic, special to the WJN

What do you want your Jewish life to look and feel like?" "What kind of learning and social action projects would be meaningful to you?" "What are your priorities in your Jewish being?" These are just some of the questions that were part of the discussions at the initial Chai Mitzvah groups that were launched in January and February, as part of the Jewish Federation's new community engagement program.

Chai Mitzvah participants: Carly Sorscher, Robyn Schmier, Jackie Lonn, Sarah Zagar, Leora Rubin, Jenna Goldenberg and Sarah Okin

Alicia Simon, Melina Adler, Lara Kross, Alyse Tankanow, Jennifer Tankanow, and Michelle Stern-Samberg

Small cohorts, ranging from young adults to seniors in the community, are getting together for Chai Mitzvah. Monthly themes, along with Chai Mitzvah prepared source books, guide the discussions, and groups are creating a warm community and heating up their Jewish life as they participate.

One of the Chai Mitzvah groups drew together 14 women on a frigid January night. The evening was full of laughter, meaningful discussion and plans for a rich Chai Mitzvah journey. Participant Lara Kross is "looking forward to building community and engaging in social gatherings and mitzvah projects that encourage many different aspects of Judaism."

There is a place for everyone in Chai Mitzvah! Those who are interested, please contact Marci Sukenic, Chai Mitzvah Community Coordinator, at marci@jewishannarbor.org or 734-677-0100, ext. 226. ■

Program on Human Trafficking

Sharyn J. Gallatin, Esq., special to the WJN

This year, the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor's Women's Philanthropy is advancing its cause with some progressive programming. Along with its regular Women's Annual Community Campaign, which to date has raised over $200,000, Women's Philanthropy is planning a major event on April 10, 2019. Led by co-chairs Joyce Gerber and Sara Wohl, the group will be presenting a program on Human Trafficking. This topic is of particular interest to women in Ann Arbor and the surrounding areas, as there have been a fair share of human trafficking cases here, given the area's close proximity to major highways and the Canadian border.

The event will feature four speakers. The first, Deborah Monroe, is a survivor of human trafficking who will share her compelling, personal story about being trafficked. The second, Edee Franklin, is the Founder of Sanctum House, the only home for adult victims of human trafficking in the State of Michigan. The third panelist is Lt. Wendy Reyes of the Oakland County Sheriff's office and a member of the Michigan Human Trafficking Task Force, and the fourth panelist will be an expert from Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County.

Sara Wohl, Women's Philanthropy Co-Chair encourages everyone to attend. "This will be an incredibly thought-provoking event that is not to be missed." The panel discussion will be held at 7 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center and will feature a pre-glow dinner for Lion of Judah and Pomegranate donors. There will be a dessert reception for all attendees after the panel discussion. There is an $18 fee to attend and all attendees will be asked to make a minimum gift of $100 to the 2019 Annual Community Campaign if they have not already done so.

This program is part of an initiative of Women's Philanthropy to have more women involved in the activities of the Federation. It is the hope of the co-chairs and the committee that this event will be the start of increased engagement of both current Women's Philanthropy members and those women new to the group and will be a conduit to future philanthropy of these women. ■

Israeli Consul General Aviv Ezra Visits Ann Arbor

Eileen Freed, special to the WJN

The Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor hosted Israeli Consul General Aviv Ezra at three events Sunday, February 10. Mr. Ezra, based in Chicago, was in town for the University Musical Society performance of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra (IPO) at Hill Auditorium.

A leadership brunch at the home of Federation president Stephen Aronson and his wife Levana was attended by approximately 25 major donors and community leaders as well as several IPO musicians. "The IPO and its musicians are much better ambassadors for the State of Israel than any diplomat," said Mr. Ezra remarking on the magnificent performance the previous evening.

Mr. Ezra spoke about his role as Consul General of the Midwest responsible for representing Israel in nine midwestern states. "When people around the world, especially Israelis, think about the US, they usually focus on the coasts," said Ezra. "I applied specially to serve in the Midwest because I believe that this is the heartland of America."

First row (from left): Bruce Kutinsky, Decky Alexander, Jason Morgan (Chair, Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners), Consul General Aviv Ezra, Federation President Stephen Aronson, Back Row: State Senator Jeff Irwin, State Representative Yousef Rabhi, State Representative Ronnie Peterson, JCC President Jesse Bernstein, Mike Fried

Developing Business Opportunities

Mr. Ezra sees his role as enhancing the relationship between Israel and the Midwest for mutual benefit. One way in which he accomplishes this is by building relationships with state governors and legislators, identifying challenges they are trying to address in their states, and connecting them with people and organizations in Israel who have been working on solutions to similar challenges. Ezra learned from former Michigan governor Rick Snyder that an important concern in the development of self-driving cars is the danger of hacking. He arranged a high-level trip to Israel for the governor and his delegation and hosted him at a cyber-security technology conference where they met with Chief Innovation Officers from across the industry. Not only did this trip forge new relationships with innovators who could help the auto industry develop solutions for safer self-driving cars, the governor was moved to earmark state funding for the Michigan Israel Business Bridge – now the Michigan Israel Business Accelerator - to expand and focus even more effectively on developing business opportunities between Michigan and Israel.

What about Religious Pluralism?

Attendees at the brunch raised questions surrounding religious pluralism and the lack of equality for non-Orthodox streams of Judaism in Israel. Mr. Ezra indicated that much of the problem related to Ultra-Orthodox hegemony over religious practice in Israel stems from Israel's political system and the reliance on religious parties to make governing coalitions. Acknowledging that American Jews were not going to move in large numbers to Israel and begin voting, Mr. Ezra encouraged the group to get involved in other ways. Federation executive director, Eileen Freed, pointed out that through the Federation's Annual Community Campaign, donors are doing just that. The Federation allocation to the Israel Religious Expression Platform (Irep), a working group of 25 Federations, has provided funding to non-profit organizations addressing this issue on the ground in Israel. These NGOs have run successful public relations campaigns around civil marriage that have already begun changing Israeli public opinion and have offered alternatives to weddings performed by the rabbinate.

Bringing Social Innovation to the Midwest

Mr. Ezra expanded on themes addressed at brunch during a Meet & Greet at the Jewish Community Center attended by about 40 community members. In addition to hi-tech expertise, Israel is a leader in social innovation, bringing creative thinking to addressing social challenges to make the world a better place. Mr. Ezra has been working with local and state leaders to bring some of these solutions to the Midwest.

For example, Israel's unfortunate experience with trauma resulted in the development of expertise in post-traumatic stress. NATAL is one non-profit organization that developed a successful, professionally evaluated multi-faceted approach to dealing with post-trauma and fostering resilience. Working with church and community leaders in the Southside of Chicago, Mr. Ezra connected them to NATAL, which has helped change and save lives in that traumatized community. There are now efforts to bring the NATAL model to Milwaukee.

Another social innovation Mr. Ezra brought to the Midwest is the inclusion and integration of soldiers with special needs into regular units – rather than serving separately – which has greatly benefited the soldiers who serve together. Mr. Ezra introduced the leadership of the National Guards of Indiana and Illinois to the organization "Special in Uniform" (*Meuchadim b'Madim)*, and they are working toward incorporating this model in their Guard units.

Combatting anti-Semitism

Several questions raised at the Meet & Greet expressed concern about the conflation between anti-Semitism, anti-Zionism and legitimate criticism of Israeli policies. "The Boycott, Divestment & Sanctions (BDS) movement is *not* concerned with helping establish a Palestinian state alongside Israel," he said. Rather, "their goal is the destruction of the Jewish state." Mr. Ezra emphasized the importance of the work being done to develop relationships to address common needs and interests in combatting BDS and other anti-Israel activities. Dr. Laurence Baker, who attended both events with his wife, said that "meeting Mr. Ezra, was enlightening, provocative and predictive of the behavior in the twitterverse of the Congresswoman from Minnesota Ilhan Omar that same evening!"

Legislative Lunch

Mr. Ezra was keen to meet with state legislators, the group he considers to be the future leaders of the country. Several representatives from the Washtenaw County Commission and the Michigan House and Senate participated in the discussion and identified issues and challenges for which Michigan is seeking creative solutions, particularly in the areas of alternative energy and water treatment. Mr. Ezra said that the best way to understand the political issues as well as the opportunities for business and social innovations is to visit Israel. He looks forward to hosting Michigan law-makers in a future delegation.

A Wonderful Weekend

Federation past-president and current president of Jewish Family Services Susan Fisher participated in many of the weekend's offerings. "I found Aviv to be a most engaging, and informative spokesperson for Israel," she said. "His clear presentation of his role provided significant detail about Israeli "outreach" in the Midwest. He answered all questions in a forthright and comprehensive manner - he did not make excuses or try to change the topic if a difficult or controversial subject was broached. In particular, I was impressed with the information he provided relative to the "social services innovations" developed by Israel that are being adopted in our country. It was a morning well spent. Between his talk and the amazing performance of the Israeli Philharmonic it was a special weekend." ■

Lights, Camera, Action

Gil Seinfeld, special to the WJN

At the heart of the art of filmmaking, Hebrew Day School's fifth grade class has learned, are collaboration, patience and perseverance. Over the last few months, these students have together written, produced, directed, acted in, advertised, and filmed a movie. They have done so largely on their own. And they've done it all in Hebrew.

The film, titled *Yeled Chadash* ("New Kid"), tells the story of the frosty reception an American student receives from some classmates upon entering a new school in Israel. The screenplay was adapted by the HDS students from a Hebrew book they had read earlier in the year, and it taps into themes of inclusion and sensitivity that have been the focus of a yearlong educational initiative at HDS.

Teacher Oren Segal explained that while the students' Hebrew language skills were essential to write, perform, and edit the film, the primary focus of the exercise was the collaboration, management, and problem-solving skills necessary to bring the project to completion. "It wasn't about learning Hebrew," Segal explained, "it was about learning how to make a movie, and that movie happened to be in Hebrew."

It was especially important to Segal that the project be planned, executed, and then evaluated by the students themselves, so he decided to take a hands-off approach when it came to overseeing the day-to-day and week-to-week components of the effort. "Standing on the side and letting the children run the show helped create passion for the project," Segal explained. "The students knew that this was to be *their product* and that they were expected to make decisions. They learned to correct each other politely, to disagree respectfully, and to solve problems together. They recognized that they were going to succeed or fail *together*."

Working on the Movie

The students were fortunate enough to receive guidance along the way from a pair of professional filmmakers, Paige Erlich and Michael Rubner. Erlich and Rubner were at HDS one day to work with leadership on a video project for the school, and they set aside some time to meet with the young film crew, discuss the filmmaking process, and answer the students' questions. The filmmakers shared insights not only about some of the technical aspects of the work, but about the importance of working collaboratively and developing the skills necessary to manage conflict and tension.

The students did, indeed, confront challenges during the filmmaking process. There were missteps along the way, including some technical difficulties that made it necessary to shoot the first half of the film a second time (after the welcome introduction of a tripod to their stash of equipment). "One of the things that was outstanding," Segal noted, "was how much they had to stick with the task and persevere. They had to be patient, they had to communicate, and every single person had to do their job. Over time, they realized how essential teamwork was to their success."

The film, which was screened in front of the HDS community at the school's Academic Fair, runs about ten minutes. It has been carefully edited, with English subtitles, background music and sound effects, creative transitions from scene to scene, and even a package of goofy outtakes at the end. "This project reflects so much of what we try to accomplish here at HDS," explained Head of School Jennifer Rosenberg. "It called on the children to use their Hebrew language skills and their interpersonal skills. They relied on technology and showcased their creativity. They learned from experts and from each other. And all they while they thought seriously about the questions of inclusiveness at the heart of their story. We are all very proud of their work." ■

L'Taken 2019 Reflection

By Eleanor Mills

During the second week of January, I flew to Washington D.C. with Rabbi Whinston from Temple Beth Emeth and two other sophomores from my religious school class. The trip was sponsored by the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism as part of their L'Taken, Social Service Seminars program. Initially, I was hesitant to go on a trip with students I barely knew, to learn about subjects I felt I was already knowledgeable about. It seemed to me my time could be better used studying for my final exams, which were a week away. Despite my protests, my parents insisted that I go on the trip. I realize now that the program changed my outlook on the political system of the U.S., as it showed me that I have the power to make a difference in society.

My group was joined by dozens of other congregational groups in D.C., and I was pleased to discover that I had the opportunity to make friends with students from New York, Texas, and San Francisco. The fact that the 150 people on the trip had similar beliefs and traditions was mind-blowing for me. I had never gone to a Jewish sleep-away camp, or had a large religious school class, or even a class in school with more than one other Jew in it. The trip opened my mind to the idea of how far beyond Ann Arbor the Jewish community stretches, and that I have common interests with Jews all over the country.

The program, L'Taken (L'Taken means "To repair" in Hebrew), was created as a way to get Jewish teenagers involved in advocating for social change in America. In the four days I was in D.C., I went on trips around the city, visiting the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial and the United States Holocaust Memorial, as well as the offices of the U.S. senators and representatives from Michigan. L'Taken also provided many seminars, which helped prepare me and the other students to lobby in Congress. In the seminars, we were provided with statistics and arguments to use when making our speeches.

Rabbi Whinston, Eleanor Mills, Naomi Linderman and Rebecca Cooke (from left to right)

I found comfort in the fact that the Reform Judaism movement was closely aligned to my personal views about the need for gun control policies, reproductive rights, criminal justice, and climate change. On the last day of the program, I had the chance to apply what I'd learned in the seminars, as well as all the background information I had from reading the news and learning in school, by going to Congress and lobbying. I was inspired by the fact that I was representing an organization I could confidently stand behind, and more importantly, that I had found a way to promote change in America in ways other than liking tweets or angrily discussing politics with my friends. I took part in the constructive action of advocating to those who have the power to directly impact the country. I will now use what I've learned through L'Taken to become a more engaged citizen. ■

Teens Report Back on their Summers in Israel

Ryan Lechtner:

This was by far the best summer of my life. I was fortunate enough to spend a whole month in Israel, from June 25 to July 19, 2018. My brother and I went on the trip with the goal of connecting to the land of Israel along with the culture and history. We really tried to experience Israel from a non-touristy view, participating in as many activities that connected us with the land and the people as we could.

Our trip began in Jerusalem. We started here to learn about the very first parts of history that involved Israel. We walked around the Old City and stopped often to really get a feel about what this city is and how much it's gone through, and is still going through today. The best experience we had was walking through tunnels that were dug out over 2000 years ago. As we walked through the tunnels with water up to our knees, I couldn't believe how people dug these out thousands of years ago without today's technology.

Ryan Lechtner and his brother

We stayed in Jerusalem about a week, getting used to Israel and everything about it. Then we went down south and instead of staying in a hotel, we stayed on a kibbutz. Southern Israel was absolutely amazing, you could look out on the horizon and see for miles with just desert and mountains around. The one downside was that it was consistently about 105-115 degrees every single day, no matter the time of day!

First we went to the *Ilan Ramon Museum* and viewed the Makhtesh Ramon/Ramon"Crater," a large heart-shaped landform created by erosion 220 million years ago. We then got the once in a lifetime chance to repel down the crater! On the way down, I stopped to look behind me and saw what looked like a giant hole in the earth, a sight I had never imagined.

The next day, we woke up at about 4 a.m. and hiked up Masada, one of the most well-known mountains in Israel. We got to the peak of the mountain just in time for the sunrise. We were all so tired, but when we looked over the Dead Sea and across the Judean Desert, it really didn't seem real. There was a light morning fog and then came the sun creeping over the mountains. The sky and everything around went from darkness to light and of course, heat.

Another day we went to the underwater observatory and marine park in Eilat. The water of the Red Sea was so blue and clear, you could see marine life in the distance. We spent the whole day on the water and ended with a sunset cruise where we danced and enjoyed the view including seeing dolphins and other animals. I also enjoyed swimming in the Dead Sea where I had a hard time believing that all we had to do was sit down and we would be floating. But sure enough, when I sat down I floated!

After staying in the desert for a week, we went north and split into three groups for our four-day electives. I chose to hike across the country of Israel from the Sea of Galilee to the Mediterranean. The other options were IDF training and volunteering at a kibbutz. There were about 50 of us that went on the hike and it did not disappoint. Even though we slept outside in sleeping bags and didn't really have any break times, the views were absolutely amazing. We would hike up a mountain and look into the distance and see hills and mountains covered in trees with small kibbutzim, which was completely different from the south which was all desert and no green. To realize that this was the same country and that only a few hours away was a huge desert was difficult to grasp. As we walked through the country, our tour guides would stop and show us otherworldly views and would explain the historical context of every place and its importance. Even though the walk was exhausting and tiring and some of the time I just wanted it to be over, making it to the Mediterranean with the other kids in our group was amazing and felt so rewarding and refreshing.

The last few days of the trip we returned to Jerusalem and to the Mediterranean Sea, where I went surfing for the first time! The whole time I would stop and look around at where I was and what this meant to me. I would try and take all of it in and it really felt like I was dreaming. Not only was I able to make new friends that I will keep forever, I also was able to further my relationship with my younger brother with whom I was fortunate enough to go on this trip with. My summer in Israel was made possible by generous help from the Lichter family through the *Susan L. Lichter Memorial Endowed Israel Scholarship*. I can't thank the Lichter family enough for providing me, and other teens in our community, the opportunity to go to Israel – truly a great thing to do

Jeremy Simon

Over the previous summer, I had the privilege of going to Israel with Habonim Dror's Machaneh Bogrim Israel (MBI) program. This five week long program brings teens from the United States and Canada together to experience what Israel has to offer. Spending over a month in a foreign country with unfamiliar people can be a daunting prospect. However, the shared experience created friendships and bonds that shape the way I connect with other people. The realization that despite the vast distance people came from, we were connected by common culture. Sharing uncomfortable experiences creates bonds that can last a lifetime.

Jeremy Simon's "boat"

On MBI, this was no more apparent than during an activity called "Rafsodia." Divided into groups, we built rafts to sail across the Kinneret. Constructed only of wood, plastic barrels, and a sail, we worked together across several days to slowly assemble our raft. Sailing is not a fast process. Spending two hours on a tiny platform suspended barely above water with a group that by this time in the trip, you may have spent a little too much time with, can be taxing. However this experience was the final piece in bringing us together as a team, and truly connecting with one another. With my family, I have been to Israel before and while we went to similar places, it was a very different type of trip compared to MBI. Sharing your experience with other people, even ones you don't know, is unforgettable. Because of the support the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor's scholarships provide, I was able to see this for myself, and for that, I am forever thankful. ■

Bake Hamantaschen with JWC

Esther Goldstein, special to the WJN

Who doesn't love the aroma of delicious pastry in the oven, making home and kitchen smell warm and inviting? This month, Jewish homes will be fragrant with the aroma of hamantaschen, the traditional little pastry triangles filled with prunes, apricots, poppy seeds, chocolate, or other flavors determined by the bakers' creativity. To learn how to bake this treat, the Jewish Women's Circle of Washtenaw County (JWC) invites all women in the community to a workshop for hamantaschen baking, March 6 at Chabad of Ann Arbor, 715 Hill St.

Esther Goldstein of Chabad will lead the workshop, demonstrating how to make the traditional recipe. Gluten-free hamantashen recipes will also be demonstrated by JWC members Yael Zoldan and Elana Greenberg. Participants will mix the dough, roll it out and cut circles of dough, fill them with fillings of their choice, and form the triangles, with advice from the leaders if they need it. Printed copies of the recipes will be available for those who would like to repeat the baking experience at home.

All participants will return home with a tray of ready-to-bake hamantaschen – a treat for themselves and their families. They will also have the opportunity to assemble a Mishloach Manot gift package to give to friends or neighbors. Making gifts of food on Purim is a tradition based on a verse from the Megillah, the story of Esther.

Baking and cooking workshops, such as the rugelach event held last fall, and many challah baking events, have been very popular with JWC members, so signing up is necessary. To sign up to receive email invitations and other notifications, send email to esther@jewmich.com or join the JWC Facebook group. Each meeting of the JWC offers local Jewish women a place to meet new friends, socialize, and learn new skills. Membership is open to all, no affiliation necessary.

The JWC Hamantaschen Baking Event will take place on Wednesday, March 6, 2019, at Chabad at 7:30 PM. Requested donation is $10. Parking is available in the adjacent U of M lot after 6 pm. ■

Celebrate Purim with the JCS!

The Jewish Cultural Society invites the entire community to come and enjoy its annual Purim Celebration at the JCC of Greater Ann Arbor on Sunday March 17, 2019. The festivities run from 10:30 a.m. – 12 noon and include a costume parade, an enthusiastic Purim Spiel, crafts, music, hamentaschen, making mishloach manot (Purim Parcels) and more! The event is free for JCS members. The community is welcome to attend and a donation of any size is appreciated.

The Jewish Cultural Society is a full service, secular humanistic Jewish Community welcoming everyone to share in the traditions, history, culture and values of the Jewish people. For further information please call: 734.975.9872 or email info@jewishculturalsociety.org. Information is also available at www.jewishculturalsociety.org. ■

Why Do We Drink Much Wine on Purim?

Rabbi Aharon Goldstein, special to the WJN

The holiday of Purim will begin on the evening of Wednesday, March 20 and continue through to Thursday, March 21.

Purim has several mitzvahs that are uniquely its own. One of these mitzvahs is that one should have a meal, drink wine and get happy to the extent that one is unable to distinguish between the phrases "curse Haman" and "bless Mordechai". This obligation, to be so happy as to be unable to make that distinction, applies to the entire day of the Purim holiday.

Rabbi Aharon Goldstein

This differs from the other mitzvahs peculiar to Purim, for example, the reading of the Megillah. Once the reading of the Megillah is completed the mitzvah is completed and the obligation is fulfilled. There is no need to read the Megillah for the entire 24 hours of the holiday!

So the question arises as to this unusual mitzvah of being so happy that a simple distinction cannot be made. How could it be that the Torah would tell a Jew not to know the difference between those two statements? Some commentators explain that the Talmud wants us to be so happy with wine that we won't be able to calculate and realize that "curse Haman" and "bless Mordechai" both have the same numerical (gematria) value of 502. However, this answer is not enough because the question is why the Rabbis chose these two particular phrases with their identical, numerical values. There are many other phrases that could have been used that would have identical numerical values – so why these two? The fact that these two phrases have the same numerical value tells us that there is some type of intrinsic connection between the two. (When we find two words in the Torah that have the same numerical value it is not regarded as coincidence.) So the question becomes even greater because the two phrases seem to be polar opposites. Why would apparent opposites share an identical numerical value?

We have to say that if one looks on a deeper level to find the meaning of "curse Haman" and "bless Mordechai" we see that the whole purpose is to convert the curse of Haman into holiness and make it into a blessing for Mordechai. Through our service to God, we take the negative, unholy quality of the metaphorical Haman and convert it into the positive, holy quality of the metaphorical Mordechai.

This is a general answer to the question of the reason God created spiritual darkness and evil in the world. The purpose of it is to give us the opportunity to convert it to light and goodness. Converting the curse of Haman to a blessing for Mordechai is analogous to converting darkness to light or evil to good. So the inner meaning of "curse Haman" is ultimately "bless Mordechai."

This is the inner meaning of the Talmud's declaration that one should get so happy on Purim that the distinction is lost between "curse Haman" and "bless Mordechai." It means that a Jew has to reach a level that is beyond rational understanding and to see that the essential meaning of "curse Haman" is no different from "bless Mordechai." Stated another way; since it is all from God, and God is all good, then, at their essence, the curse and the blessing share their essential values.

Under normal conditions, within the limits of normal reason, one's commitment to God cannot reach to the level of converting something so negative to something so good – cursing and blessing are opposites in this state of consciousness. But when a Jew reaches a deeper level of commitment to God, the service is not only based on their limited, comfortable state of religious commitment, but it goes beyond this normal, limited state into a deeper state, in which the revelation of God's oneness is more evident. Then, when one sees an apparent opposite, it is as if seeing it from God's perspective which is beyond duality and sees the essential holy unity in everything.

Converting the curse of Haman to a blessing for Mordechai is analogous to converting darkness to light or evil to good.

It is our challenge to refine and elevate the material world in order to make it into a fit dwelling place for God.

As an example to prove this point, the Rabbis tell us about the power of repentance. This power is so strong that it takes even intentional sins and converts them to merits. According to normal logic and reasoning, it is impossible to convert something that is evil, bad and a sin into something holy, good and meritorious. According to the normal order of things some things are allowed and others are not. Under normal circumstances the Torah prescribes what we should do and what we shouldn't do. But, God forbid, if one should err in the ways of Torah and ask God for forgiveness, since they have such a strong desire to return to the ways of God, they obtain the ability to change the lower energy of negative deeds into the higher, holier energy of positive deeds.

This is what we mean when we speak of converting "curse Haman" into "bless Mordechai" on the holiday of Purim. ■

Come Taste the (Kosher) Wine

The Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor and Morgan & York are pleased to present a Kosher wine tasting just in time for Passover. Guests will sample 5-6 different wines, have the opportunity to purchase bottles in advance of the chag, and enjoy a sampling of specialty cheeses and accoutrements. Tickets ($15) are required, and are available for purchase at www.morganandyork.com. The tasting will take place on March 7 from 6:30-8 p.m. at Morgan & York, 1928 Packard, Ann Arbor. ■

Vashti said "No"

by Rabbi Ora Nitkin-Kaner

Growing up in Toronto in the 1980s, I looked forward to my shul's Purim costume parade. Although my default was a corduroy hamentaschen jumper made by my mother, most of the other girls chose between Esther and Vashti.

The Esthers wore white gauzy dresses, and had rouged cheeks and blue eyeshadow. The Vashtis wore red or black, with lipstick to match.

Rabbi Ora Nitkin-Kaner

The Esthers consistently outnumbered the Vashtis. Even as young girls, we understood on some level that if we wanted to be 'good,' we needed to be Esthers – patient, sweet, malleable, and brave when it was possible to be brave.

We knew Vashti was also a heroine, although her legacy seemed murkier. But why? All Vashti did, according to *Megillat Esther*, was refuse to appear (naked, as the legend goes) before the king and his drunken court.

Turns out our earliest rabbis disagreed over Vashti's actions and her character. One midrash claims that she wanted to appear naked at Ahashverosh's request; she was only prevented from doing so by an abrupt, full-body eruption of leprosy (BT Megillah 12b). Another midrash claims Vashti had a habit of bringing Jewish women into the palace, stripping them naked, and ordering them to work on Shabbat. Vashti being commanded to appear nude at the banquet was thus merely '*middah k'neged middah*' – measure for measure, or, in non-Jewish terms, karma. Other midrashim, however, portray Vashti in a more positive light – as a queen deserving of her crown, a sensitive ruler whose refusal was an attempt to educate her boorish king and appeal to his better nature.

In all these midrashim, the rabbis seem to asking the question: Was Vashti 'good'? And the corollary: was her refusal legitimate? Absent is the awareness that a woman's 'no' might be taken at face value, as a complete statement of free will.

The rabbis and their values are a product of their time, as we are of ours. But it saddens me, as a rabbi living in this 'Me-Too' era, that our inability to accept a woman's 'no' at face value is still so pervasive.

I am struck almost daily by how rarely women feel we can simply say 'no.' It's always 'No, but thank you,' or 'I'm sorry,' or a reluctant 'yes' -- to get along, to not make a fuss, because we want to be generous, to be in loving relationship, to be respected, to be safe. And even when we are able to say, strongly and simply, 'no,' it's hard to feel secure in that choice; to not be afraid that our boundary-setting will evoke the anger of those who'd prefer us to just say 'yes.'

How much bravery it still takes to be a Vashti in today's world. God-willing, this Purim and this year, may we all, regardless of gender, finally feel we can say 'no,' and trust that all will be well for us and those we care for. ■

Purim in Israel: at the JCC!

Sora Gordon, special to the WJN

Although the miracle of Purim is one that happened in ancient Persia, this year, residents of Ann Arbor will have the opportunity to celebrate it in the Holy Land. Once again, Chabad of Ann Arbor and the Jewish Community Center are teaming up to present a one-of-a-kind Purim extravaganza, this time themed around Israel.

Both Chabad of Ann Arbor and the JCC strive to consistently create new and creative ways to fill the Jewish holidays with joy for everyone from children to adults alike, and Purim provides a perfect opportunity for them to think outside the box. Traditionally, Purim is a holiday celebrated with fun and food, light and joy. Chabad and the JCC plan on doing just that, but with an exciting new twist that promises fun for the entire family. There will be music, face-painting, fun and games for all ages. Everyone, from toddlers to teens, will have a blast at an event that promises to be *sababa* (awesome).

"When we were thinking of a theme for this year's Purim celebration, Israel was the obvious choice. The land of our heritage is such a unifying force for Jews throughout history, and we want this Purim to be one that unifies the community. Besides, who can say no to a make your own falafel bar?" says Shternie Zwiebel , and Jessica Gillespie of the JCC concurs. "We at the JCC have been joining forces with Chabad to bring joy to the celebration of Judaism for a while now. We've worked on several joint Purim programs in the past, but I believe that Purim in Israel is going to be the most meaningful, and yes, the most fun Purim yet!"

The festivities will begin at 5:15 p.m., with a Megillah reading, telling the story of Purim in which brave Queen Esther teamed up with her cousin Mordechai to save the entire Jewish people from the wicked Haman. The reading will be followed by a delicious Israeli-style dinner at 5:45 p.m., featuring a make your own falafel bar boasting everything you can imagine fitting in a pita, and of course, the holiday staple – hamantaschen! After dinner, the family-friendly fun will really take off, with Israeli music, face-painting, and an Israel-themed photobooth where you can choose to take photos against a backdrop of your favorite location in Israel. There will also be Tzfat-style art projects and a squeeze your own orange juice station – truly fun for everyone. Thursday, March 21, 5:15p.m. Megillah reading, 5:45p.m. festivities and dinner.

Cost: Family $40 or per person $15. Early bird, before March 15: Family $35 person $12. Get tickets at www.jewmich.com/events or by calling Chabad or JCC. ■

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AJL Awards for Best Fiction

Special to the WJN

Mark Sarvas is the winner of the Association of Jewish Libraries (AJL) Jewish Fiction Award for his novel *Memento Park*, published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux. The award includes a $1,000 cash prize as well as support to attend the 54th Annual Conference of the AJL in Woodland Hills, CA, June 17-19, 2019. Two honor books were also recognized: *The Cloister* by James Carroll, published by Nan Talese, an imprint of Knopf Doubleday, and *The Fourth Corner of the World* by Scott Nadelson, published by Engine Books. The Committee reviewed over 70 works of fiction originally written in English with significant Jewish thematic content that were published in the United States in 2018.

The protagonist in Mark Sarvas's second novel, *Memento Park*, becomes aware of a valuable painting believed to have been stolen from his family in World War II. In order to recover the mysterious work, he must reconnect with his father, his family history, and his own Judaism. "Dramatically paced and laced with mordant wit, Mark Sarvas has fashioned a meditation on art, family, faith, and Jewish history in the form of a suspenseful intellectual thriller," notes Yermiyahu Ahron Taub, Chairperson of the Award Committee.

In *The Cloister*, James Carroll tells the timeless love story of the discredited medieval French scholar Peter Abelard and his intellectual paramour Héloïse, and its impact on a priest and a Holocaust survivor in post-World War II Manhattan. "Assiduously researched and richly imagined, James Carroll has created a riveting glimpse into how the encounter between Christianity and Judaism many centuries ago continues to reverberate to devastating effect in more recent times," writes Yermiyahu Ahron Taub.

The characters in Scott Nadelson's short story collection, *The Fourth Corner of the World*, abandon their lands of origin, sever their roots, and distance themselves from the people they once were. "With diverse settings and time periods - from 1920s Paris, Jewish utopian farmers in 1880s Oregon, teenage girls in 1980s New Jersey, and modern-day suburbanites – each story is fascinating and emotionally charged," commented Rachel Kamin, a member of the Award Committee.

The AJL Jewish Fiction Award Committeeincludes two members from Ann Arbor, Merrily Hart and Clare Kinberg. Also on the committee are Rachel Kamin, Rosalind Reisner, and Yermiyahu Ahron Taub.

The AJL gratefully acknowledges the generous support of Dan Wyman Books for underwriting the Award. Submissions for the 2020 AJL Fiction Award are now being accepted. For more information, please visit www.jewishlibraries.org.

AJL is all-volunteer professional organization that promotes Jewish literacy through enhancement of libraries and library resources and through leadership for the profession and practitioners of Judaica librarianship. The Association fosters access to information, learning, teaching and research relating to Jews, Judaism, the Jewish experience and Israel. ■

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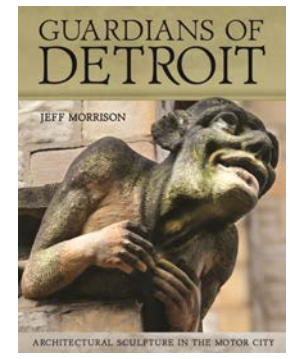
EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

SUSTAINABLE ANN ARBOR FORUM
CLIMATE CHANGE 201
THURS. MARCH 21 • 7-8:30PM • DOWNTOWN LIBRARY
Join the conversation as U–M professors and other speakers dig deeper into the latest thinking about the science and impacts of climate change, both locally and globally. This month's panelists include Dr. Jonathan Overpeck (Dean of the School for Environment and Sustainability, University of Michigan) and Emily Drennen (Sustainability Analyst, City of Ann Arbor). *Sustainable Ann Arbor is an annual series presented by the City of Ann Arbor and hosted by the Ann Arbor District Library.*



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Two Remarkable Young Men and their schools in Uganda

By Lonnie Sussman

On a recent trip to Uganda, I had the privilege of spending Shabbat in the village of Nabugoya where I met two remarkable young men, one Muslim and one Jewish, who are changing children's lives through improvements to their rural schools.

Nabugoya, and several other small villages in the in the hills of Eastern Uganda, are home to over a thousand Jews living among Muslims, Christians and people of other and no particular faiths. Nabugoya hosts a new synagogue with one rabbi, Rabbi Gershom Sizomu, who serves the entire region. There are also two primary schools: Hadassah Primary in Nabugoya and Tikkun Olam in nearby Namatumba. Together the schools serve nearly 800 Jewish, Muslim and Christian students.

Sadati Mulilo is an incredibly talented, energetic and superbly trained computer specialist with a vision for bringing computers and computer skills to his rural village. He is a Muslim, raised in Nabugoya by his mother, Rachel, who now works as a cook in the village guest house where I stayed. In 2015, Sadati returned to his village to help the local primary school start up a computer lab. The Hadassah School [unrelated to the Hadassah organization] began its computer program with two computers donated by Jerry Knoppow of suburban Detroit. Currently they have 20 desktops and more than 30 laptops for use by teachers and almost 420 students from nursery school through grade seven.

The well at the Tikkon Olam School

Sadati's five year plan for the program, beginning in 2015, included computer literacy for all of the teachers and students; integration of computers into teachers' lesson plans and the operation of the school; opportunities for the interested students to learn coding; ongoing training; and networking with other students around the world. For example, in 2017, Logan Miller of New Jersey, began Skyping with the Hadassah School's Computer Club as part of his bar mitzvah project. Logan traveled to Nabugoya to meet his Ugandan partners in person and continues to Skype with the Club every Thursday.

Another recent project has been teaching Hadassah School students how to develop web pages. The project appears to be so successful that the students will now start learning advanced programming skills. The goal of this project is for them to make an android application for use by the school with standards high enough to allow them to eventually get good jobs in computer fields. The plan for the rest of 2019 is to build a website for the school with an information management system. Sadati's next goal will be to write a book for use in other primary schools using the research they are doing on training teachers and students.

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Sadati with new compter kit at Hadassah School

He hopes that sharing his research and results with supporters in other countries will lead to raising funds for the next steps in this grand project. Currently the computer club meets in an old kitchen room, but they would like to have a new room, away from noise and distractions that would allow the students to concentrate better.

I also met Yoash Mayende, principal of the Tikkun Olam School in Nambatumba. Yoash's father died when he was six and his father's family sent the mother and her seven children away. This was unusual as the tradition in Uganda is that the father's brother adopts the children of the dead father. The family went to the mother's village where Yoash had uncles who were butchers and at age six he went to work for them. He learned to cook meat which he sold to earn money for school fees. Kulanu, a U.S. based organization, also helped Yoash with his school fees. Kulanu (All of Us), which was founded 25 years ago, supports isolated, emerging and returning Jewish communities around the globe. Kulanu's financial help allowed Yoash to complete high school and go to college. In 2013 he earned his BA in administration and management. Following two trips to the United States to work in Jewish summer camps and raise funds for his school, he returned to Uganda to get to work on his five year plan.

Yoash was able to use land in his village to build the school. At first there was just one building, a grain mill. Slowly, bricks were used to build three classrooms. A well was dug and is used by anyone who lives near the school. There is a boys' dormitory, a new kitchen, and six more classrooms for the expanding number of students ages four to sixteen. There are 373 students enrolled with school fees of 25,000 Ugandan shillings per semester. This is the equivalent of about seven or eight dollars. Yoash has also managed to have some solar panels installed for lights in some of the buildings.

Subjects in the Tikkun Olam school include mandatory Judaica and prayers for the Jewish students. Secular studies include math, English, Science and Social Studies as well as music. The school also has programs for about 30 deaf children. National exams are part of the educational system in Uganda. Yoash proudly said that in the past three years all the eighth graders but one passed the national exam and are eligible to go on to high school. His future goals include obtaining more computers, plastering the walls of the classrooms and bringing seeds and farming tools along with more modern farming methods to the school and to the community.

It was an honor to meet these two men and other people as well, who are working to bring a better future to the children of their villages. A little help goes a long way. Please check out the organization Kulanu.org for more information about the Abayudaya and other projects to help isolated and emerging Jewish communities. If you would like to support the computer labs and coding programs or the farming project in Nambatumba, please specify that on the web site. ■

Yoash in his office at Tikkon Olam

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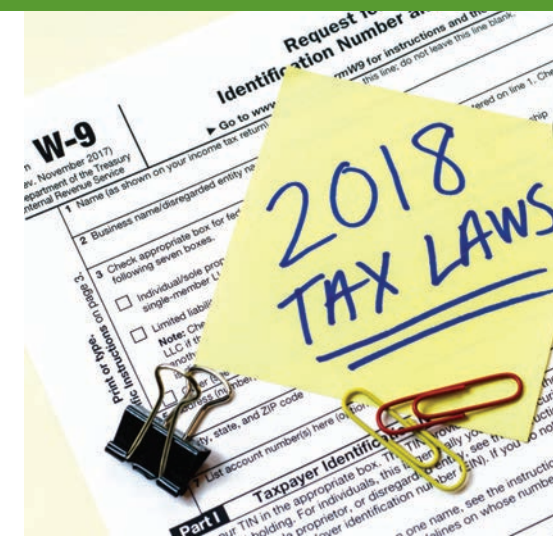

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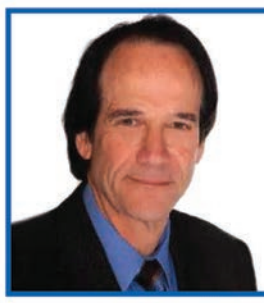

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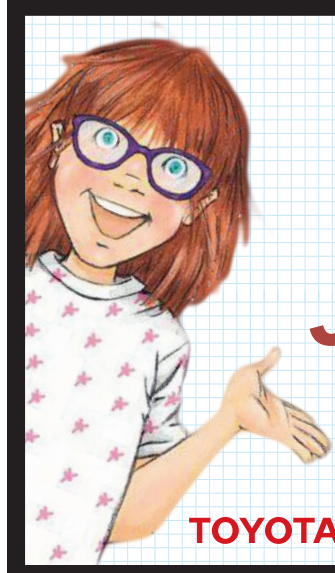

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Info: aafilmfest.org

Films in Competition 1
Michigan Theater Main Auditorium
8:15pm

#AAFF57
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Is Our Criminal Justice System Fair?

Special to the WJN

This February, Rabbi Aharon Goldstein of Chabad House in Ann Arbor, began a new six session course, Crime and Consequence, by the acclaimed Rohr Jewish Learning Institute (JLI) exploring 3000 years of Jewish perspective on conviction, sentencing, and criminal rehabilitation.

On Wednesdays through March, at 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., participants in the course will challenge their thinking, ponder the implications of ancient Talmudic wisdom for complex modern cases, and get to the heart of the most pressing injustices facing our criminal justice system today.

"DNA testing is proving that we've been convicting innocent people. When we incarcerate first-time offenders, we're turning them into hardened criminals. Known murderers are able to walk free on a technicality. How can we stand by and remain silent to these serious flaws in our criminal justice system?" Rabbi Rabbi Aharon Goldstein of Chabad House, the local JLI Instructor, told us "I believe the first step is for us, as a community, to acknowledge the issues and explore possible solutions. And can you think of a better place to look for guidance than Judaism's wisdom of the ages?"

Participants in the course will ponder foundational questions: What is the goal of criminal punishment—to gain retribution for the victim, to keep criminals off the streets and safeguard from future crime, to set an example and instill the fear of law, or to rehabilitate the criminal and reintroduce him to society? Should we consider testimonies given in exchange for a reduced sentence as reliable evidence?

Crime and Consequence is accredited in Michigan for attorneys and other law professionals to earn continuing education credits. Like all JLI programs, this course is designed for people at all levels of knowledge, including those without any prior experience or background in Jewish learning. All JLI courses are open to the public, and attendees need not be affiliated with a particular synagogue, temple, or other house of worship.

Interested students may call 734-995-3276 x 2 or visit www.myJLI.com for registration and for other course-related information. JLI, the adult education branch of Chabad-Lubavitch, offers programs in more than 960 locations in the U.S. and in numerous foreign countries. ■

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VANYA AND SONIA AND MASHA AND SPIKE is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York

Scholars' Symposium on Sephardic Identities

Kelsey Robinette Keeves, special to the WJN

The thirteen Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies fellows who have been collaborating and researching this year on the University of Michigan campus will share their work with the public at a two-day symposium in the Rackham Graduate School's Assembly Hall on March 27th and 28th, 2019. The symposium, titled "Sephardic Identities, Medieval and Early Modern," will bring together 18 scholars from across the North America, Europe, and Israel to discuss Sephardic myths of identity from a diachronic perspective. Participants will present papers both on the origins of Sephardic exceptionalism within medieval Sephardic communities themselves and on the evolution of such notions under pressure from forced conversion, expulsion and diaspora.

From Left to Right: Devi Mays, Moshe Yagur, Ryan Szpiech, Jeffrey Veidlinger, Brian Hamm, Martin Jacobs, Ehud Krinis, Ilil Baum, Ross Brann, SJ Pearce

The symposium marks the conclusion of 2018–2019 Frankel Institute theme year focused on the same subject, which has been led by head fellow Ryan Szpiech (University of Michigan). Szpiech commented, "This theme is of timely relevance for the study of Jewish history and culture. The fellows have developed projects of remarkable breadth and quality. Centering the discussion around notions of identity, including both Jewish self-perception and the image of Jews in the eyes of non-Jews, has opened up new avenues for research on Jewish life and thought all around the Mediterranean."

The Frankel Institute fellows presenting include: Ilil Baum (Bar-Ilan University), Ross Brann (Cornell University), Monica Colominas Aparicio (Max Planck Institute for the History of Science), Brian Hamm (University of Central Florida), Marc Herman (Columbia University and Fordham University), Maya Soifer Irish (Rice University), Martin Jacobs (Washington University, St. Louis), Ehud Krinis (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev), Devi Mays (University of Michigan), SJ Pearce (New York University), Vasileios Syros (University of Jyväskylä, Finland), and Moshe Yagur (University of Haifa).

There will also be five guest scholars presenting at the symposium: Harvey J. Hames (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev), Matt Goldish (Ohio State University), Mark Meyerson (University of Toronto), Jonathan Ray (Georgetown University), and Miriam Bodian (University of Texas at Austin), who will also deliver the plenary lecture. Szpiech said, "The invited speakers are all top researchers in their field and we are looking forward to developing a dialogue about new work in Sephardic studies and in the history of Medieval and Early Modern Iberian cultures."

The symposium will include over ten panels, all focused around the concept of Jewish identity. Frankel fellow Ross Brann will be presenting the last chapter of the book manuscript he is completing during his time at the University of Michigan. Brann remarked, "Its subject is the 12-13th century Hebrew and Arabic poet-translator Judah al-Ḥarizi from Toledo. Al-Ḥarizi traveled to the Islamic East in search of patrons and connoisseurs for Hebrew literature."

Another fellow, Moshe Yagur, is working on the image of Sephardic Jews that appears in documents of the Cairo Genizah, a trove of material preserved in the synagogue of Fustat (Old Cairo), Egypt, between the ninth and nineteenth centuries. Yagur stated that his paper has benefitted greatly from the weekly workshops held at the Frankel Institute throughout the year and the feedback he's received from all of the Frankel Institute fellows. He hopes that attendees come away from his talk with an understanding that, between the tenth and thirteenth centuries, the term "Sephardi" is of uncertain and shifting meaning, both for individuals and their community.

Fellow Ilil Baum's paper is also about self-definition, but from the perspective of a linguist. Baum first became interested in Sephardic studies by studying medieval manuscripts. "I delve into questions regarding multilingualism, linguistic and cultural contacts, based on the material culture, that is the remnants of manuscripts and fragments of medieval Hebrew manuscripts, written in cursive and sometimes hard to decipher Sephardi script, and preserved in libraries and archives all over the world. "

Baum considers these manuscripts an important area of research to study. "Understanding the role of language in questions of defining the identity of individuals and communities, such as the Jews of Spain, is a key factor for understanding minorities and immigrants, be it in the medieval or modern periods, be it Sephardic, or otherwise."

Szpiech said he and all the fellows are excited to present their projects in the context of a public dialogue. "The symposium will be of interest to fellows scholars and students as well as the general public. It represents a fitting culmination of a year of productive research by our fellows," said Szpiech. ■

How will our history be told?

by Beth Dwoskin

How do you make a movie about the Holocaust? Ideally, the bare facts tell a real-life horror story, with no need for Hollywood artifice. Yet, straight documentary can numb viewers, leaving them without a personal connection to the narrative. The film *Who Will Write Our History* addresses this challenge by combining primary source narrative and authentic footage with a dramatization of one critical aspect of Holocaust history.

PHOTO CREDIT: ANNA WLOCH

Andrew Bering portrays Israel Lichtenstein Preparing First Cache.

Who Will Write Our History is based on the book of the same name by historian Samuel Kassow. As in a standard documentary, Kassow appears as a commentator in the film, along with other noted experts on the subject of Polish Jewry. The difference in this film is that the primary characters in the story are dramatically recreated by Polish actors, while their translated diaries are voiced over by American actors. The main characters are Emanuel Ringelblum, who created the Oyneg Shabes project, and Rachel Auerbach, a writer who survived to curate the Oyneg Shabes archive and promote its use as testimony in the Eichmann trial.

The goal of the Oyneg Shabes project was to tell the story of the Warsaw Ghetto in Jewish terms, in the voice of the victims rather than the victors. A team of writers and intellectuals documented the Warsaw ghetto in real time through diaries, as well as by gathering ephemera of daily life such as ration cards, theater programs, original drawings, ghetto newspapers, and so on. The documents were buried in secret locations in the ghetto. The Oyneg Shabes project sounds hopelessly quixotic, yet it succeeded in its goal. The archive was found after the war in two of its three burial sites and is now in the possession of the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw.

Who Will Write Our History intercuts straight dramatic scenes in color with black-and-white historical footage. Early in the film, scholar Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett emphasizes that most of the visual evidence of the Holocaust was created by Germans and presumably, that is what we see in this film. The move from stark, gray, footage of documentary horror to the sophisticated lighting and camera effects of modern Polish cinema is unsettling and effective. But the words from the diaries of Oyneg Shabes writers, their emotional and factual testimonies, are the most moving part of the film.

Who Will Write Our History was written, directed, and produced by Roberta Grossman, a film maker with a stellar resumé, including the 2012 hit *Hava Nagila (The Movie),* a film on photographer Dorothea Lange for *American Masters,* and two major works on the subject of Native Americans. The film ran at the State Theater in Ann Arbor as part of a global screening event on Holocaust Remembrance Day, January 27.

PHOTO CREDIT: ANNA WLOCH

Director Roberta Grossman with actors Karolina Gruszka (Judyta Ringelblum) and Piotr Głowacki (Emanuel Ringelblum) on set in Poland.

As we know, the story of the Holocaust must be retold in every generation. The high production values of *Who Will Write Our History* will engage the young as well as older viewers who don't know the story, and it will renew understanding for those who are more knowledgeable. The question of whether it's valid to apply an artistic esthetic to the Holocaust can never be answered definitively, but this film makes a thoughtful and original attempt to do so. ■

When Adar enters, Joy Increases

Lonnie Sussman, staff writer

Adar is the month in which we celebrate Purim. Along with the reading of Megillat Esther, the story of Purim, traditions include gifts to the poor, sharing of food and a celebration meal. So, use up flour before Pesach by making dozens of hamantaschen and other treats. Purim also has an association with alcoholic spirits. There is a tradition of drinking to the extent of "not knowing the difference between Mordechai and Haman". Now that we understand how dangerous that can be, I am certainly not encouraging that type of drinking. But if you are able, a drink or two can be part of the celebration.

Alcohol in the form of wine or spirits is part of human history. It is both a way to preserve fruits and grains past their growing seasons, as well as another way to enjoy food and drink. Almost all celebrations include wine and or spirits. Mixed drinks were never a big part of these celebrations in most Jewish homes. Wine, of course, is part of Shabbat and holiday celebrations. And whiskey, brandy, arak and slivovitz were often part of the celebrations as well. I remember my Dad passing out small glasses of slivovitz and then offering me some. I put some on my tongue and *yow*! It burnt all the way down. My husband, Ron, spent his 14th year at a daily minyan saying kaddish for his father. He was always offered a shot of whiskey or a glass of Sherry Herring by the rest of the old men in the minyan. A shot of spirits is a typical way to make a "L'Chaim" or toast for a simcha.

About 60 or more years ago my dad made wine and beer in the basement of our house.

My mom remembers that she often heard small explosive sounds in the middle of the night as the yeast would expand in the beer barrel or shoot the cork out of a bottle. After a few episodes of this she stopped wanting to call the police. I remember a batch of dandelion wine (not that good, don't bother) made from dandelions we collected in the nearby park. In recent years my sons and nephews have tried their hands at making home-brews so the tradition continues.

Our son, Ari, is a manufacturer of distilled spirits who makes all types of vodka, whiskey, bourbon, liquors and hard ciders. He started as a bartender but fell in love with distillation after attending a workshop on whiskey making at Michigan State University. He came home to show us how to use our tea kettle with a copper tubing stuck in it to make "Manischewitz Moonshine," technically a brandy – and a felony so don't do that. He now has a significant library on the history of distillation and related subjects and loves sharing his knowledge.

How about vishniak? Have you heard of that? Like slivovitz, a plum brandy, vishniak is a drink made from fruit and brandy, gin or vodka. We are still lucky enough to have stories from my mother about how the new immigrants retained some of their "Old World" traditions. Every year her mother and aunt made vishniak, usually with cherries but also with blueberries or peaches. The fruit was placed in the bottom of large jars and the vodka or other spirits were poured over it. The jars were placed on the top shelf of the pantry and brought down to be enjoyed when family members came over for an evening visit. When asked if they ate anything with the vishniak she answered, "Kichel!" (See last months' articles about baking where I called kichel "air with sugar"). A friend of mine remembered her father trying to make vishniak from fruit trees in their back yard. He quit when the house filled with fruit flies.

In a great *Moment Magazine* article (September 2016), the author, Josh Tapper, relates some of the history of Jews in the beer and whiskey businesses in the United States as well as in Central and Eastern Europe. The short story is that Jews were very involved with making wine and spirits in Europe. The wine was mostly made from raisins, as grapes were not commonly grown and vodka was mainly made from rye. The big wave of immigrants from Europe was 1880-1920. Alcohol commerce was viewed as a Jewish occupation. In the United States the main alcoholic beverages were whiskey and beer. The German immigrants who arrived earlier than the Jewish immigrants ran the beer industry. Whiskey production was seen as uniquely American and the Jewish immigrants wanted to be included. This was a field open to those who could take advantage of production and sales of whiskey. Following Prohibition and bootlegging operations, Jews became very involved with whiskey and bourbon production. Did you know that Seagrams's and Jim Beam brands, including Elijah Craig Bourbon, were owned by Jewish families? One of the largest distilleries in the United States, Heaven Hill, is still owned by the Shapira family. I'm not able to do justice to all the information in Tapper's article, so please check it out: www.momentmag.com/american-whiskeys-jewish-spirit. ■

Vishniak

1 -lb. Bing cherries or other fresh or frozen fruit
1- lb. granulated sugar
1- liter vodka, rum or gin

Wash and stem the cherries. Place them in a clean glass container. Pour the pound of sugar over the cherries. DO NOT STIR OR SHAKE.

Pour the liquor over the sugar and cherries. Do not stir. Cover with a lid. Put the jar in a cool dark place and let it stand three months.

Strain into two 1-quart bottles. This produces a very sweet liquor. You can use less sugar as this makes a very sweet liquor. Other fruits can be used such as peaches apricots, plums, etc. No need to peel the fruits. My mother says put a little bit of fruit into a cup of tea for a special treat.

Mammhattan :

From www.mammothdistillery.com: their take on a Manhattan Cocktail.

Fill glass (8 oz.) with ice,
Add 2 oz. Mammoth Bourbon or Rye Whiskey
Add 1 oz. Cherry Bounce (Mammoth's take on vishniak but not super sweet)

Add 2-3 dashes Angostura Bitters, optional
Stir until cold and strain if desired.

Garnish with a cherry

Hamantaschen

From *Jewish Holiday Baking*, by Marcy Goldman

Here's one of many recipes for pareve hamantaschen. Feel free to double the recipe. This makes 4-6 dozen pastries, depending on the size of the circles.

1 cup sugar
1 cup vegetable oil
½ cup orange juice
Zest of 1 orange, minced very fine
1 tsp. vanilla
3 eggs
Approximately 4 cups all-purpose flour
1 TBS. cornstarch (optional, but it helps)
½ tsp. salt
1½ tsps. Baking powder
¼ tsp. baking soda
egg wash for finishing before baking to glaze

In large bowl blend the oil and sugar together. Mix in the orange juice, zest, vanilla and eggs. Fold in the dry ingredients (flour, cornstarch, salt, baking powder and baking soda). This will make a soft but firm dough. Cover with a tea towel and let rest 15-20 minutes. Heat oven to 350 degrees and use parchment paper to cover baking sheets. Work with half the dough at a time and keep the remaining dough covered with the tea towel. Roll out the dough on a lightly floured surface to about 1/8 -inch thickness. Use cookie cutter, top of soup can or small glass to cut about 3-inch circles. Brush the surface of the circle with the egg wash. Fill with a generous teaspoonful of your favorite filling and pinch the sides together to form the triangle. Brush again with the egg wash. Bake until light golden brown about 18-25 minutes.

Persian Walnut and Pomegranate Chicken Stew

From *King Solomon's Table*, by Joan Nathan

This would be fun for a Purim feast or Shabbat dinner because it's a dish from the Persian Empire, the setting for Megillat Esther. Meat dish, 6-8 servings

3-4 -pound chicken or chicken parts
1- medium onion, peeled and quartered
salt and pepper to taste
1 tsp. ground turmeric
4 cups walnuts, coarsely ground (food processor or by hand)
3 cups pomegranate juice
3 TBS. pomegranate molasses or to taste
1 cup roughly chopped dates
½ cup dried apricots, roughly chopped
1 -2 TBS date jam or sugar (optional)
Garnish with cilantro or parsley and pomegranate seeds

Place chicken in a large pot with water to cover it. Add the quartered onion, salt and pepper and turmeric. Bring the water to a boil, cover and reduce heat to a simmer until the chicken is done, about 40 minutes.

Use tongs to remove the chicken and let it cool on a plate. Strain the broth into a large bowl and discard the onion. You should have about 8 cups of broth. Once the chicken is cool enough to touch, discard the skin and bones. Tear off bite size pieces of the meat and put them back into the pot.

Add the ground walnuts, pomegranate juice and molasses, the dates and apricots and more salt and pepper if needed. Stir in 2 cups of the chicken broth. Bring to a simmer over medium-high heat and then lower the heat and cook, covered, for one hour. Stir occasionally and add more broth to prevent sticking, if necessary. Taste and add more pomegranate molasses and or the date jam or sugar to reach the balance of sweet and tart. Refrigerate or freeze the remaining broth. Serve over rice and sprinkle with cilantro, parsley and/or pomegranate

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March Activities at Beth Israel Congregation

Special Friday Tot Shabbat

Friday, March 1, 5–5:45 p.m.

A special Friday Tot Shabbat led by Sarah Klein, with playtime for children and their parents. Families are encouraged to stay for the Family Service and Dinner that follows.

Shabbat Service and Dinner

March 1, 5:45 – 6:30 p.m.

The evening begins with a family-themed service, accompanied by camp-style guitar singing. Participants gather around a gigantic Shabbat table filled with candles, tsedakah boxes, and challot. Under the glow of the candles, participants bless each other, sing the Shabbat prayers, and listen to a brief teaching. A family-friendly dairy dinner follows. There is no charge for the dinner, but please RSVP to Beth at office@bethisrael-aa.org. This evening is sponsored by Elise Weisbach, Rita Gelman, and Ami and Prue Rosenthal.

Shabbat Limmud

Saturday, March 2, 16, 30, 9:00 a.m.

Adults are invited for Torah study over coffee and cake. The discussions, led by Rabbi Dobrusin, are informal, lively and participatory. The study begins with traditional texts and participants add their own thoughts on the Torah, Haftarah portion of the week, or other traditional texts.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Sunday, March 3, 9:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Saving a life is one of the most important mitzvot (commandments) in Judaism. It is easy to schedule an appointment online: Go to www.redcrossblood.org; on the top right is red box. Put bic13 in there and click on blue arrow. Then you should get a box on left of screen giving you option to register. If you have a problem or have no time to register, you may contact Amy Abrams-Blakemore 734-649-1608 (phone/text) or amy.abrams.blakemore@gmail.com and give your full name, phone number, and range of time to be scheduled. (e.g.: around 11am). You will get an email back with the time that you are scheduled.

Tot Shabbat

Saturdays, March 9 and 23, 11:15 a.m.

Tot Shabbat is Beth Israel's special Shabbat morning program for preschoolers and their parents with songs, stories, and prayers, plus the Shabbat "Mystery Box." Tot Shabbat is led by Beth Israel's Program Director, Sarah Klein, and Davey Rosen, Associate Director of Michigan Hillel.

Tot Family Bowling

Saturday, March 17, 1–3 p.m.

This is fun- filled afternoon of bowling at Revel and Roll where Tot Families can socialize, enjoy each other's company, and bowl! Recommended for families of children up to six years old. The fee is $25 dollars per family.

Judaism 411: Advanced Introductory Judaism

Sunday, March 3 and 17, 9:30–11: a.m.

This class is intended for adults and older teens for a more thorough look into the basics of Jewish teachings. Taught by Rav Nadav.

Erev Purim

Wednesday, March 20
6 p.m. BIRS Purim Shpiel and Dairy Dinner
7 p.m. Megilla Reading: Lights, Hamentashen, Broadway!

Erev Purim at Beth Israel begins with a Purim Shpiel, the Purim story, acted out by 3rd and 4th grade students. A dairy dinner follows. The cost of dinner is $8.00 per person for adults after High School and beyond. All others are free. RSVP for dinner by contacting beth@bethisrael-aa.org.

At 7 p.m. the megilla will be chanted in Hebrew, interspersed with popular tunes from Broadway musicals. Both children and adults are encouraged to dress in their favorite costumes (extra credit for characters from Broadway musicals). Hamantashen are available throughout in the adjoining Social Hall.

Never a Bystander *Documentary Showing*

March 17 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Beth Israel will be showing the short film, *Never a Bystander* directed by Evelyn Neuhaus. *Never a Bystander* is a short documentary that introduces audiences to Irene Butter, a Holocaust survivor with a remarkable capacity to reframe the trauma she endured as a child growing up in Nazi Germany. Throughout the film, Butter is warmly embraced as she takes her story to school children. Butter's uplifting message and her impact on young people moves viewers to compassion, forgiveness, and empowered action. Both Irene and Evelyn will make remarks afterwards, and Irene will perform a brief reading from her memoir after the showing.

Evelyn Neuhaus and Irene Butter

Mini Minyan

Saturday, March 23, 11:15 a.m.

Mini-Minyan is Beth Israel's service for elementary school age children. The service includes Shabbat prayers and fun educational activities. Mini Minyan is led by Sarah Klein. For more information contact Sarah Klein at sklein@bethisrael-aa.org.

All of Beth Israel's events, educational offerings, and recreational programs are open to the general community. If you would like further information, please call 665-9897 or visit www.bethisrael-aa.org, or Beth Israel's facebook page. ■

TBE Events March 2019

Families with Young Children (FYC): Tot Shabbat Service

Fridays, March 1, 8, 15 & 29, 5:45 p.m., TBE Sanctuary
5:45 p.m. | Tot (0–5 year olds) Shabbat Services with Rabbi Whinston and Cantor Hayut
6:15 p.m. Dinner for Tot Shabbat | 6:45 p.m. Shira Service

All of your favorite songs led by TBE's tot team, Cantor Hayut and Rabbi Whinston. Join us for macaroni and cheese, fish sticks, applesauce, and a salad bar immediately following the short service. Dinner is just $5 per person. Buy a punch card ahead of time for a discounted price. Punch cards are available in the TBE office.

Delving into the Prayer Book

Sundays, March 10, 17, 24 & 31, 3:30 p.m., Adult Lounge

Join Cantor Hayut to learn about the Jewish Worship service using music and the recitation of the prayers. Because we will use Mishkan Tefillah, our transliterated Prayer Book, knowledge of and/or the ability to read Hebrew is an asset but is not essential. Contact Cantor Hayut, cantorhayut@templebethemeth.org, with questions.

Weekly Lunch & Learn

Fridays, March 1, 8, 15 & 22, TBE Adult Lounge, Noon

Rabbi Whinston meets on Fridays for an informal discussion about religion. Sessions are open to the entire community. Feel free to bring your lunch.

Saturday Torah Study

Saturdays, March 2, 9, 23 & 30, 8:50 a.m.

Join us for this weekly discussion of the Torah portion led by Rabbi Whinston.

Euchre Night

Saturday, March 2, 8:00 p.m., TBE Adult Lounge

Grab a partner or come alone! All levels welcome. Contact Dave Ostreicher, djostrei@umich.edu, with questions.

TBE Families Meet-Up: Hamantaschen Party at the J

Sunday, March 10, 10:30 a.m., Jewish Community Center

TBE, PJ Library and the J are hosting a Hamantaschen party! Prepare hamantaschen to bake at home (no long wait time this year!), sing and dance with Rabbi Whinston, and make a grogger to take home. Stay tuned for RSVP information. Contact Candace Bulkley, candancebulkley@gmail.com, with questions.

Women of TBE: Historical Novel Reading Group

Mondays, March 11, 12:30 p.m., TBE Library

The WTBE Reading Group meets on the second Monday of each month, October through June. Contact Molly Lindner, burnham@umich.edu.

Women's Torah Study

Mondays, March 11 & 25, 7:00 p.m.

An in-depth study and lively discussion of the week's Torah portion led by Cantor Regina Hayut. The group will explore various passages from the portion looking at several translations and commentaries from a variety of scholars from Talmudic times to the modern day. No Hebrew knowledge necessary to participate in the discussion. For questions, contact Cantor Regina Hayut at cantorhayut@templebethemeth.org.

Monthly Family Meetup

Sundays, March, 10:00 a.m., Offsite

TBE wants to find more ways to connect socially! Please join us for a meet-up. These events are for children 0-10 years old. Questions? Contact Beth Pearson, bethlpearson@gmail.com.

Purim Carnival and Shpiel

Saturday, March 16, Shpiel begins at 10:30 a.m., and Purim Carnival begins at 11:15 a.m.

Join TBE as we rediscover the story of Purim with our Purim Shpiel, "Finding Esther!" based on *Finding Dory*. Celebrate later as one community at our costumed Purim Carnival. Pizza is $1/slice and $10/full pizza available at the door. Contact Nikki Feinberg, nfeinberg@templebethemeth.org, with questions.

WTBE Presents Alicia Svigals for an Evening of Yiddish Music & Song

Saturday, March 16, 7:00 p.m., Temple Beth Emeth

Join the Women of TBE in welcoming composer/violinist Alicia Svigals, a founder of the Grammer-winning Klezmatics, for an evening of Yiddish music and song, traditional and new. Svigals' one-woman show includes her soul-cycle "Seduction in Enyaim,"settings of contemporary and ancient texts about motherhood, in Yiddish, Hebrew and English. Tickets are $20 and available online here. Contact Yuni Aaron with questions.

Megillah Reading and Purim Singing on Erev Purim

Wednesday, March 20, 6:00 p.m., Temple Beth Emeth

TBE hosts a Megillah Reading on Erev Purim, separate from our annual Purim Carnival. Join us for this evening of reading and Purim singing. This will be an opportunity to learn about and celebrate Purim.

Guitar-led Shabbat Service

Friday, March 22, 6:30-8:30 p.m., TBE Sanctuary

A special, song-filled, musical celebration with singing, dancing, guitar, and a big dose of ruach. It's how we provide another gateway to prayer. This service takes the place of Shabbat Achat and falls on the fourth Friday of each month.

Community Panel Discussion with Rabbi Rick Jacobs, URJ President

Thursday, March 28, 7:30 p.m., University of Michigan Museum of Art

Join TBE in welcoming Rabbi Rick Jacobs, URJ President, for a conversation moderated by Rabbi Josh Whinston, discussing "*Facing the Future of American Judaism*." The panel will consist of Professor Deborah Dash Moore, Frederick G. L. Huetwell Professor of History and Judaic Studies, Professor Karla Goldman, Jewish Communal Leadership Program, Sol Drachler Professor of Social Work, and Tilly Shames, Executive Director of University of Michigan Hillel. The discussion will be followed by a casual reception at the museum. No tickets are required. Please contact TBE's Executive Director, Melissa Sigmond, msigmond@templebethemeth.org, with questions. ■

March 2019

Friday 1

Lunch and Learn: TBE. Adult Lounge. Rabbi Whinston meets on Fridays for an informal discussion about religion. Sessions are open to the entire community. Feel free to bring your lunch. Noon–1 p.m.

Tot Shabbat: BIC. A special Friday Tot Shabbat led by Sarah Klein with playtime for children and their parents. 5 p.m.

Family Service and Dinner: BIC. Gather around a gigantic Shabbat table and enjoy camp-style guitar, singing, and a brief teaching on the meaning of family followed by a family-friendly dinner. Sponsored by Elise Weisbach, Rita Gelman, and Ami & Prue Rosenthal. RSVP online at www.bethisraelaa.org. 5:45 p.m.

First Friday Shabbat: Jewish Cultural Society at the JCC. All are invited to welcome Shabbat with secular Jewish readings, songs, candle lighting, challah, wine, and a Yahrtzeit observance to remember loved ones. Children are welcome. Dinner will follow the short observance at the Jewish Community Center, and is free for JCS members. A donation of $10/person or $25/family for nonmembers is appreciated. Registration is required at www.jewishculturalsociety.org. For more information: 734-975-9872 or info@jewishculturalsociety.org. 6:30 – 9 p.m.

Family Shabbat Services: TBE. Tot Shabbat from 5:45–6:15 p.m. Tot Shabbat Dinner from 6:15–6:45 p.m.

Birthdays and Anniversaries Shabbat: TBE. 7:30–9:00 p.m.

Friday evening services: See listing at end of calendar.

Saturday 2

Torah Study: TBE. Weekly discussion of the Torah portion led by Rabbi Whinston 8:50–9:50 a.m.

Shabbat Limmud: BIC. Held before Shabbat morning services by Rabbi Robert Dobrusin, this session will offer a lively discussion on Parashat Ha-Shavua, the Torah portion of the week and other traditional texts. 9 a.m.

Bar Mitzvah Service: Charles Kehoe: TBE. 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Tot Shabbat: AAOM. Spirited and lively Tot Shabbat meeting every Saturday. For tots ages 0–5 years old and their families. Tot friendly service with singing, storytime, and a kids Kiddush to follow. Held at Hillel, 1429 Hill Street. Non-members welcome and encouraged to attend. For details, email community@annarborminyan.org or visit www.annarborminyan.org. 11:15 a.m.–noon.

Euchre Night: TBE. Adult Lounge. Grab a partner or come alone! All levels welcome. Contact Dave Ostreicher, djostrei@umich.edu, with questions. 8–9:30 p.m.

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Sunday 3

Red Cross Blood Drive: BIC. Saving a life is one of the most important mitzvot in Judaism, so be sure to schedule an appointment to donate blood at our blood drive! Register for an appointment at www.redcrossblood.org and enter "bic13" in the blood drive search window. 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Judaism 411: Advanced Introductory Judaism: Beth Israel Congregation – GSAC 2010, Room 2. Come learn about a variety of topics on Judaism with Rav Nadav and enjoy coffee and a nosh. 9:30 – 11 a.m.

Taste of HDS: Kindergarten Open House: Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor, at the JCC. Preschoolers and their families are invited to spend the morning with our kindergarten teaching team. Hands-on activities will give students a "taste of Gan" as parents learn more about our kindergarten program. A healthy snack will be provided. RSVP to Ali Reingold at areingold@hdsaa.org 10 a.m.

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidim and discover the beauty and depth of Judaism. 10:30–11:30 a.m. *Sundays.*

Kol Halev, the Jewish all volunteer adult choir rehearsal: TBE. 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Monday 4

WTBE Fiber Arts: TBE, Adult Lounge. All are welcome – beginners to experts, we help each other to get better at our craft. We have some project ideas and materials to help you out. As a group we will be knitting hats for cancer patients that can be completed successfully as a beginner. For more information contact Martha Weintraub at weintraub.martha@gmail.com. 7:30–9 p.m.

Tuesday 5

Tea and Torah on Tuesday—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Torah may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study of the text with the classical Rashi commentary. 8 p.m.

Talmud Class with Rabbi Anstandig: AAOM / Hillel 1429 Hill Street. Join thousands of Jews around the world as we all study Masechet Megilla and the holiday of Purim, one page a week! Be prepared to be challenged and surprised as learn the Talmudic background to the holiday we all know and love. 8:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Wednesday 6

Film Screening @ the J: ***Yentl.*** Join the J for a screening of Barbara Streisand's 1983 film, *Yentl*. This event is as part of the J's Lunch Cafe. An optional lunch will be available at noon for purchase. Please call (734) 971-0990 at least one day prior to reserve lunch. For more information about this event, contact Rachael at (734) 971-0990 or rachaelhoffenblum@jccannarbor.org. 12:30–2pm.

Yidish tish* Yiddish Conversational Group): JCC.**Please note the change of location, day, and time!* After many years at the Michigan League, we are moving to the Ann Arbor JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48108, Conference Room, experimenting with combining the long-time Yiddish reading group together with the conversational one, ½ an hour of one followed by ½ an hour of the other. All are welcome for conversation and reading in *mame-loshn*, the "mother tongue." Free and open to all lovers of Yiddish language and culture, no matter what level of proficiency, regardless of age. All manner of topics are discussed, with an effort to improve participants' Yiddish speaking skills, especially vocabulary. Everyone is welcome to join in at any time, or to just listen. For more information, please e-mail Elliot H. Gertel at egertel@umich.edu or call Lily Ladin at (734) 662-6613. 11:00 a.m. Wednesdays beginning February 13.

Is Our Criminal Justice System Fair? Chabad. DNA testing is proving that we've been convicting innocent people. When we incarcerate first-time offenders, we're turning them into hardened criminals. Known murderers are able to walk free on a technicality. How can we stand by and remain silent to these serious flaws in our criminal justice system?" Wednesdays 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Mahj: TBE. Offsite. 1–3 p.m.

Hamantaschen Baking: Jewish Women's Circle, at Chabad, 715 Hill St. Parking is available in the adjacent U of M lot after 6 pm. Donation: $10. Spaces are limited: please email esther@jewmich.com. 7:30 p.m.

Theology Book Club: BIC - GSAC 2010 Lower Level. Join the Theology Book Club to read and discuss books on Jewish thought and beliefs. 8 p.m.

Thursday 7

Baking Mavens: TBE. 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Back Door Food Pantry: TBE. 4–7 p.m.

Kosher Wine Tasting: Morgan & York, 1928 Packard, Ann Arbor. Fee $15. Information and RSVP (required) at www.morganandyork.com. 6:30 – 8 p.m.

Perplexing Purim Perspectives: AAOM/location TBD A night of learning with Rebbetizin Sarit Bendavid. Expect a spirited and rich discussion and delicious snacks! 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Topics in Jewish thought: AAOM/Hillel 1429 Hill St. Each week we dive into a different topic in Jewish law, thought, and history. Recent topics have included: "Keeping Halacha in Outerspace," "Angelology and Demonology in Judaism," and "Controversial New Methods of Writing Sifrei Torah." 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Talmud–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study from the original Talmud tractate. 8 p.m. *Thursdays.*

Friday 8

Lunch and Learn: TBE. Adult Lounge. Rabbi Whinston meets on Fridays for an informal discussion about religion. Sessions are open to the entire community. Feel free to bring your lunch. Noon–1 p.m.

Jewish Karate/Shalom Gever: TBE. 4–5 p.m.

Family Shabbat Services: TBE. Tot Shabbat from 5:45–6:15 p.m. Tot Shabbat Dinner from 6:15–6:45 p.m. Shira from 6:45–7:15 p.m. All of your favorite songs led by TBE's tot team, Cantor Hayut and Rabbi Whinston. Join us for macaroni and cheese, fish sticks, applesauce, and a salad bar immediately following the short service. Dinner is just $5 per person. Buy a punch card ahead of time for a discounted price. Punch cards are available in the TBE office.

Friday evening services: See listing at end of calendar.

Saturday 9

Torah Study: TBE. Weekly discussion of the Torah portion led by Rabbi Whinston 8:50–9:50 a.m.

Bar Mitzvah Service: Sam Bertcher: TBE. 10:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Tot Shabbat: BIC. This special Shabbat morning program is for preschoolers and their parents with songs, stories, prayers, and the Shabbat "Mystery Box." 11:15 a.m.

International Women's Day Havdallah: Ken Pardes (the Ann Arbor Habonim Dror constituency). Contact ken.annarbor@gmail.com for time and location. **Shabbat services:** *See listing at end of the calendar.*

Sunday 10

Conflict of Interest, a symposium sponsored by the Maimonides and Cardozo Societies of the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor at the Kellogg Eye Center, 1000 Wall Street. Tiana Korley, JD and Dan Hayes, MD, will discuss the issue of conflict of interest as it relates to those who fail to list board memberships on and payments from pharmaceutical companies who are directly involved in their research. The event commences with brunch at 9 a.m. to be followed at 10 a.m. by the panel discussion. Pre-registration is required. Register on-line **at www.jewishannarbor.org or contact Isaac Ellis at isaac@jewishannarbor.org** or (734) 677-0100, ext. 245. **9 a.m. – noon.**

Family Hamantaschen Bake: JCC. PJ Library and Temple Beth Emeth partner to let families learn how to create Hamantaschen they can take home to bake! For more information contact Jessica at 971-0990 or jessicagillespie@jccannarbor.org. **10:30 a.m. – noon**

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidim and discover the beauty and depth of Judaism. **10:30–11:30 a.m.**

Ritual Lab & Learn: AARC. Adult Education series taught by Rabbi Ora Nitkin-Kaner, learning and practicing home rituals. 12:30–2 p.m.

***Hagaddah Regatta* Book Launch: JCC.** Join Carol Levin as she launches her new book for all the kids, view her original art, craft for children, book signing. 3 – 4:30 p.m.

Open House: Camp Camp Gan Israel Chabad House 3–5 p.m.

Delving into the Prayer Book: TBE. Contact Cantor Hayut, cantorhayut@templebethemeth.org, with questions. 3:30–4:30 p.m.

Nehama Glowgower presents "Having The Conversation": JCC. The Conversation Project started when award winning journalist Ellen Goodman had to make end of life decisions for her beloved mother and realized that she didn't really know what was important to her mother, and on what basis she should make her decisions. What constitutes a "good death?" What is a "hard death?" When is it time to turn the focus away from treatments that may be prolonging death rather than prolonging life? When can we pause and ask, "What is the goal here?" What does Jewish law and Jewish medical ethics have to say about withholding certain treatments? What if I change my mind? What if Mom or Dad develop dementia? What is the role of hospice? Most importantly, how can I identify the values that can guide a difficult decision? Visit www.jccannarbor.org for more information and to RSVP. **4-6 p.m.**

Kol Halev, the Jewish all volunteer adult choir: TBE. 6:15-7:45 p.m.

Monday 11

WTBE Historical Novel Reading Group: TBE. This month's book is Mr. Churchill's Secretary by Susan Macneal. 12:30–2 p.m.

Women's Torah Study: TBE. An in-depth study and lively discussion of the week's Torah portion led by Cantor Regina Hayut. The group will explore various passages from the portion looking at several translations and commentaries from a variety of scholars from Talmudic times to the modern day. No Hebrew knowledge necessary to participate in the discussion. For questions, contact Cantor Regina Hayut at cantorhayut@templebethemeth.org. 7–9 p.m.

Tuesday 12

29th David W. Belin Lecture in American Jewish Affairs, James Loeffler, University of Virginia, "Prisoners of Zion: American Jews, Human Rights, and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict" : Palmer Commons, Forum Hall, 100 Washtenaw Ave.. 2018 marked the 70th anniversary of two momentous events in 20th-century history: the birth of the State of Israel and the creation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Both remain tied together in the ongoing debates about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, global antisemitism, and American foreign policy. Yet today American Jews are increasingly divided on the subject of Israel and human rights. Many on the Jewish Right and the Jewish Left increasingly imagine Zionism and international human rights as intrinsically in-

compatible – though they differ in their reasoning. Drawing on his recent book, Rooted Cosmopolitans, Professor Loeffler will discuss the deeper historical roots of this divide and its implications for the future of American Jewish politics. **6:30 p.m. reception, 7:00 p.m. lecture.**

Brotherhood Hebrew Bible Study: TBE. 7:30-9:00 p.m.

Tea and Torah on Tuesday—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Torah may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study of the text with the classical Rashi commentary. 8 p.m. *Tuesdays*.

Talmud Class with Rabbi Anstandig: AAOM / Hillel 1429 Hill Street. Join thousands of Jews around the world as we all study Masechet Megilla and the holiday of Purim, one page a week! Be prepared to be challenged and surprised as learn the Talmudic background to the holiday we all know and love. 8:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Wednesday 13

KidZone Vacation, JCC. KidZone Vacation provides fun and adventure for children in K-5 when Ann Arbor Public Schools and Hebrew Day School have scheduled closures. Children enjoy computer time, games, reading time, arts and crafts time, sports, and a kid-friendly movie. Pre and post care available. Visit www.jccannarbor.org for more information (including pricing information) or to register. Questions? Contact Nicole at nicolefeinberg@jccannarbor.org or 734-971-0990. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Yidish tish* (Yiddish Conversational Group): JCC.**Please note the change of location, day, and time!* After many years at the Michigan League, we are moving to the Ann Arbor JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48108, Conference Room, experimenting with combining the long-time Yiddish reading group together with the conversational one, ½ an hour of one followed by ½ an hour of the other. All are welcome for conversation and reading in *mame-loshn*, the "mother tongue." Free and open to all lovers of Yiddish language and culture, no matter what level of proficiency, regardless of age. All manner of topics are discussed, with an effort to improve participants' Yiddish speaking skills, especially vocabulary. Everyone is welcome to join in at any time, or to just listen. For more information, please e-mail Elliot H. Gertel at egertel@umich.edu or call Lily Ladin at (734) 662-6613. 11:00 a.m. Wednesdays beginning February 13.

Film Screening @ the J: *RBG*: Join the J for a screening of the 2018 film, *RBG* to celebrate Women's History Month. This event is as part of the J's Lunch Cafe. An optional lunch will be available at noon for purchase. Please call (734) 971-0990 at least one day prior to reserve lunch or for more information contact rachaelhoffenblum@jccannarbor.org. 12:30–2p.m.

Is Our Criminal Justice System Fair? Chabad "DNA testing is proving that we've been convicting innocent people. When we incarcerate first-time offenders, we're turning them into hardened criminals. Known murderers are able to walk free on a technicality. How can we stand by and remain silent to these serious flaws in our criminal justice system?" Wednesdays 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Theology Book Club: BIC - GSAC 2010 Lower Level. Join the Theology Book Club to read and discuss books on Jewish thought and beliefs. 8 p.m.

Film *Heather Booth: Changing the World:* UM Museum of Art, Forum and Lower Auditorium. Opening reception for the Jewish Feminisms/American Visions Conference, including discussion with Heather Booth. **7 – 9p.m**.

Thursday 14

Jewish Feminisms/American Visions: Jewish Communal Leadership Program at the University of Michigan School of Social Work, Room 1840. 36 pioneering and contemporary feminist activists, leaders, and thinkers to consider the role of Jewish identity in the framing and development of second wave American feminism. Building on the interpretations offered by historian Joyce Antler in her recent book, Jewish Radical Feminism: Voices from the Women's Liberation Movement, activists from the 1960s through today will reexamine the contexts, experiences, and identities that went into creating American feminism and its impact on Jewish culture, politics, and religion. Free, but RSVP for meals. **8:30 a.m. – 9 p.m.**

Back Door Food Pantry: TBE. 4 – 7 p.m.

Topics in Jewish thought: AAOM/Hillel 1429 Hill St. Each week we dive into a different topic in Jewish law, thought, and history. Recent topics have included: "Keeping Halacha in Outerspace," "Angelology and Demonology in Judaism," and "Controversial New Methods of Writing Sifrei Torah." 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Talmud–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. See first Thursday of month for details. 8 p.m. *Thursdays.*

Friday 15

Jewish Feminisms/American Visions: Jewish Communal Leadership Program at the University of Michigan School of Social Work, Room 1840. Free, but RSVP for meals. **8:15 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

Lunch and Learn: TBE. Adult Lounge. Rabbi Whinston meets on Fridays for an informal discussion about religion. Sessions are open to the entire community. Feel free to bring your lunch. Noon–1 p.m.

Tot Shabbat: TBE. 5:45–6:15 p.m.

Tot Shabbat Dinner: TBE. 6:15–6:45 p.m.

Shabbat Service: 3rd Grade Shabbat: TBE. 7:30-9:00 p.m.

Friday evening services: See listing at end of calendar.

Saturday 16

Shabbat Limmud: BIC. Held before Shabbat morning services by Rabbi Robert Dobrusin, this session will offer a lively discussion on Parashat Ha-Shavua, the Torah portion of the week and other traditional texts. 9 a.m.

Tot Shabbat: AAOM. Spirited and lively Tot Shabbat meeting every Saturday. For tots ages 0–5 years old and their families. 11:15 a.m.–noon.

Purim Shpiel and Carnival: TBE. See TBE events for details. Shpiel begins at 10:30 a.m. and Carnival is 11:45 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Purim on Ice: Ken Pardes (the Ann Arbor Habonim Dror constituency). Ice skating in costume. Contact ken.annarbor@gmail.com for time and location.

Alicia Svigals, An Evening of Klezmer Fiddle and Yiddish Song: Women of TBE at TBE. Svigals, the world's leading klezmer fiddler and a founder of the Grammy-winning Klezmatics, presents an evening of Yiddish music and song, traditional and new. Her one-woman show includes her song cycle "Seduction in Eynaim", settings of contemporary and ancient texts about motherhood, in Yiddish, Hebrew and English. Tickets are $20 online at www.wtbe.org or at the door. Concert at 7p.m. with dessert reception to follow. **7:00 – 9:30 p.m.**

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Sunday 17

Judaism 411: Advanced Introductory Judaism: Beth Israel Congregation – GSAC 2010, Room 2. Come learn about a variety of topics on Judaism with Rav Nadav and enjoy coffee and a nosh. 9:30 – 11 a.m.

Kids Purim Party: AAOM/ location TBD, contact community@annarborminyan.org for more info. Please join us for a fun filled kids Purim party at one of our member's homes. Costumes encouraged and all are welcome! 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Purim Celebration: Jewish Cultural Society at the JCC. All are invited to celebrate Purim with the JCS. The festivities include a costume parade, Purim Spiel, crafts, music, hamentashen and more. For more information: 734-975-9872 or info@jewishculturalsociety.org. **10:30 a.m. – noon.**

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidim and discover the beauty and depth of Judaism. 10:30–11:30 a.m. *Sundays.*

The Jewish Future is Feminist: JCLP Community Conversations The Jewish Communal Leadership Program's Annual *Communal Conversation,* School of Social Work, Room 1840. The world is changing and so is Jewish feminism. Join the University of Michigan School of Social Work's Jewish Communal Leadership Program (JCLP) for an interactive conversation with prominent Jewish feminist leaders April Baskin, Rabbi Lizzi Heydemann, and Sarah Hurwitz. From Jewish communal life to politics and beyond, these three women are expanding communal boundaries, opening doors, and breaking through ceilings. Join us as we relate the legacies of Jewish feminism to what it means to confront today's opportunities and challenges. **Noon – 3 p.m**.

Kids Care Fair: Organized by JFS at Washtenaw Community College in the Morris Lawrence Building. Service learning and fun activities for elementary school aged children and their families. Tickets are $25 per family or $50 for a host family. No family will be turned away due to an inability to pay. For more information and to register, visit www.jfsannarbor.org/kids-care-fair. 3 – 5 p.m.

Tot Family Bowling: BIC. At Revel and Roll, Tot families are invited to socialize, enjoy each other's company, and bowl. Recommended for children up to 6 years old. $25 per family. RSVP to Sarah Klein (sklein@bethisrael-aa.org). 1 – 3 p.m.

Delving into the Prayer Book: TBE. 3:30–4:30 p.m.

***Never a Bystander, film showing:* BIC.** The short documentary film, *Never a Bystander*, directed by Evelyn Neuhaus, introduces audiences to Irene Butter, a Holocaust survivor with a remarkable capacity to re-frame the trauma she endured as a child growing up in Nazi Germany. Both Irene and Evelyn will make remarks afterwards, and Irene will perform a brief reading from her memoir after the showing. 4 – 6 p.m.

Kol Halev, the Jewish all volunteer adult choir: TBE. 6:15-7:45 p.m.

Monday 18

WTBE Fiber Arts: TBE, Adult Lounge. All are welcome – beginners to experts, we help each other to get better at our craft. We have some project ideas and materials to help you out. As a group we will be knitting hats for cancer patients that can be completed successfully as a beginner. For more information contact Martha Weintraub at weintraub.martha@gmail.com. 7:30–9 p.m.

Tuesday 19

"Race" in Christianity and Islam: the Case of Converts from Judaism, David Nirenberg, University of Chicago: Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, Room 2022, 202 S. Thayer St. Race and racism are important concepts, but their history is challenging. On the one hand, most historians (and biologists) today do not believe that biological race exists. On the other hand, they do not doubt that racial concepts played powerful roles in some (but not all!) periods in the past. How can we tell when a concept we encounter in the past is "racial"? And what do the racial concepts of one period in the past have to do with those of another? Can we speak of "the origins of race" in any particular period or place? These are the questions addressed in this talk, which focuses on times and places in which conversion from Judaism to Christianity or Islam has produced the idea that religious characteristics are biologically reproduced. **4:00 p.m.**

Tea and Torah on Tuesday–for Women: Chabad. 8 p.m. *See first Tuesday of month*.

Wednesday 20 Erev Purim

Yidish tish* (Yiddish Conversational Group): JCC.**Please note the change of location, day, and time!* After many years at the Michigan League, we are moving to the Ann Arbor JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48108, Conference Room, experimenting with combining the long-time Yiddish reading group together with the conversational one, ½ an hour of one followed by ½ an hour of the other. All are welcome for conversation and reading in *mame-loshn*, the "mother tongue." Free and open to all lovers of Yiddish language and culture, no matter what level of proficiency, regardless of age. All manner of topics are discussed, with an effort to improve participants' Yiddish speaking skills, especially vocabulary. Everyone is welcome to join in at any time, or to just listen. For more information, please e-mail Elliot H. Gertel at egertel@umich.edu or call Lily Ladin at (734) 662-6613. 11:00 a.m. Wednesdays beginning February 13.

Film Screening @ the J: *For Your Consideration*, JCC. Join the J for a Purim screening of 2006 independent film, *For Your Consideration*. This event is as part of the J's Lunch Cafe. An optional lunch will be available at noon for purchase. Please call (734) 971-0990 at least one day prior to reserve lunch. For more information about this event, contact Rachael at (734) 971-0990 or rachaelhoffenblum@jccannarbor.org. 12:30–2 p.m.

Mahj: Offsite. 1:00–3:00 p.m.

Purim Shpiel and Dinner: BIC. Beth Israel Religious School 3rd and 4th grade students put on their annual Purim Shpiel which is followed by a dinner. Cost is $8.00 for adults (post-High school age) and children are free. RSVP on at www.bethisrael-aa.org. 6 p.m.

Purim Megillah Reading: Lights, Hamentashen, Broadway! BIC. Come hear the Megillah and enjoy the Purim story set to some popular tunes from Broadway musicals! 7 p.m.

Megillah Reading & Purim Singing: TBE. 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Thursday 21 Purim

Megillah Reading: Hebrew Day School at the JCC (Newman Lounge). Beth Israel will join the students at the Hebrew Day School to hear the Megillah. 8:15 a.m.

Third Thursday @ the J: TBD. Save the date and make sure to check the J's website (www.jccannarbor.org) for more information about upcoming speakers! Optional lunch available at noon. Lunches must be reserved at least one day in advance. For more information, contact Rachael at rachaelhoffenblum@jccannarbor.org or (734) 971-0990. Noon–1 p.m.

Back Door Food Pantry: TBE. 4:00–7:00 p.m.

Brotherhood Guys' Night Out: TBE. 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Kids Purim Carnival and Parade: AAOM/Hillel, 1429 Hill Street. Please join us for a kids Purim carnival complete with several fun stations, and costume parade at the end! Prizes will be awarded! 5:00-6:00p.m.

Purim in Israel: Chabad and JCC. Israel themed dinner and festivities. **Megillah reading begins at 5:15 p.m., dinner and fun at 5:45 p.m.**

Calendar

Friday 22

Lunch and Learn: TBE. Adult Lounge. Rabbi Whinston meets on Fridays for an informal discussion about religion. Sessions are open to the entire community. Feel free to bring your lunch. Noon–1 p.m.

Tot Shabbat Dinner: TBE. 6–6:30 p.m.

Guitar-led Shabbat Service: TBE. Sanctuary. A special, song-filled, musical celebration with singing, dancing, guitar, and a big dose of ruach. It's how we provide another gateway to prayer. This service takes the place of Shabbat Achat and falls on the fourth Friday of each month. 6:30–8 p.m.

Fourth Friday and Megillah reading. AARC at the JCC. Check the AARC website www.aarecon.org for details.

Friday evening services: See listing at end of calendar.

Saturday 23

Torah Study: TBE. Weekly discussion of the Torah portion led by Rabbi Whinston 8:50–9:50 a.m.

B'nai Mitzvah Service: Logan Tauber & Spence Nagel: TBE. 10:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Tot Shabbat: BIC. This special Shabbat morning program is for preschoolers and their parents with songs, stories, prayers, and the Shabbat "Mystery Box." 11:15 a.m.

Tot Shabbat: AAOM. Spirited and lively Tot Shabbat meeting every Saturday. For tots ages 0–5 years old and their families. 11:15 a.m.–noon.

Mini Minyan: BIC. The service for elementary school age children will include Shabbat prayers and fun educational activities. The children will join the main congregation for the final prayers in the sanctuary. 11:15 a.m.

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Sunday 24

Monthly Family Meet-Up: TBE. Families with Young(ish) Children: Monthly Playground Meet-Up. Rotating Parks in Ann Arbor.. These events are for children 0–10 years old. Questions? Contact Beth Pearson, bethlpearson@gmail.com. 10–noon.

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidim and discover the beauty and depth of Judaism. 10:30–11:30 a.m.

Ritual Lab & Learn: AARC. Adult Education series taught by Rabbi Ora Nitkin-Kaner, learning and practicing home rituals. 12:30–2 p.m.

Delving into the Prayer Book: TBE. 3:30–4:30 p.m.

Kol Halev, the Jewish all volunteer adult choir: TBE. 6:15-7:45 p.m.

Monday 25

KidZone Vacation, JCC. KidZone Vacation provides fun and adventure for children in K-5 when Ann Arbor Public Schools and Hebrew Day School have scheduled closures. Children enjoy computer time, games, reading time, arts and crafts time, sports, and a kid-friendly movie. Pre and post care available. Visit www.jccannarbor.org for more information (including pricing information) or to register. Questions? Contact Nicole at nicolefeinberg@jccannarbor.org or 734-971-0990. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Women's Torah Study: TBE. 7–9 p.m.

Tuesday 26

KidZone Vacation, JCC.

See Monday 25

Influence of Biblical Cantillations on Art Music in the 20th and 21st Centuries, Jascha Nemstov, pianist and musicologist: Frankel Center for Judaic Studies,Room 2022, 202 S. Thayer St. The oldest part of Jewish music culture is the ritualized presentation of texts from the Hebrew Bible (tanakh) organized through a complex and highly diversified system of strict musical rules and distinct motifs (cantillations). Since the beginning of the 20th century, the motifs of biblical cantillations have been perceived by Jewish composers as the "most authentic" part of the Jewish musical tradition and used as a source of inspiration and "building material" in many works. By their archaic character and their shortness of breath they also significantly influenced the musical style of the new Jewish art music. **4:00 p.m.**

Tea and Torah on Tuesday–for Women: Chabad. 8 p.m. *See first Tuesday of month.*

Wednesday 27

KidZone Vacation, JCC.

See Monday 25

Sephardic Identities, Medieval and Early Modern: Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies, Rackham Assembly Hall, 915 E Washington St. During this two day symposium, 18 scholars will look at Sephardic myths of identity from a diachronic perspective, bringing together papers both on the origins of Sephardic exceptionalism within medieval Sephardic communities themselves and on the evolution of such notions under pressure from forced conversion and inquisition, expulsion and diaspora, and ghettoization and emancipation. See article on page ?? 9 a.m.

Yidish tish* (Yiddish Conversational Group): JCC.**Please note the change of location, day, and time!* After many years at the Michigan League, we are moving to the Ann Arbor JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48108, Conference Room, experimenting with combining the long-time Yiddish reading group together with the conversational one, ½ an hour of one followed by ½ an hour of the other. All are welcome for conversation and reading in *mame-loshn*, the "mother tongue." Free and open to all lovers of Yiddish language and culture, no matter what level of proficiency, regardless of age. All manner of topics are discussed, with an effort to improve participants' Yiddish speaking skills, especially vocabulary. Everyone is welcome to join in at any time, or to just listen. For more information, please e-mail Elliot H. Gertel at egertel@umich.edu or call Lily Ladin at (734) 662-6613. 11:00 a.m. Wednesdays beginning February 13.

Is Our Criminal Justice System Fair? Chabad "DNA testing is proving that we've been convicting innocent people. When we incarcerate first-time offenders, we're turning them into hardened criminals. Known murderers are able to walk free on a technicality. How can we stand by and remain silent to these serious flaws in our criminal justice system?" Wednesdays 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Film Screening @ the J: *Funny Girl*. Join the J for a screening of of Barbara Streisand's 1968 film, *Funny Girl*. This event is as part of the J's Lunch Cafe. An optional lunch will be available at noon for purchase. Please call (734) 971-0990 at least one day prior to reserve lunch. For more information about this event, contact Rachael at (734) 971-0990 or rachaelhoffenblum@jccannarbor.org. 12:30–2 p.m.

Theology Book Club: BIC - GSAC 2010 Lower Level. Join the Theology Book Club to read and discuss books on Jewish thought and beliefs. 8 p.m.

Thursday 28

Sephardic Identities, Medieval and Early Modern:

JEWISH FEMINISMS
AMERICAN VISIONS
PERSPECTIVES FROM FIFTY YEARS OF ACTIVISM

Join this historic symposium on the role of Jews in American feminism, and the emergence and impact of Jewish Feminism.

Free and open to the public.
*RSVP requested and required for vegetarian lunch.

For more information and to register:
ssw.umich.edu/rPa8

Heather Booth
Deborah Dash Moore
Ellen Meeropol
Rayna Rapp
Judith Plaskow
Martha Ackelsberg
Irena Klepfisz
Eveyln Torton Beck
Keren McGinity
Alicia Svigals
Joyce Antler
Karla Goldman
Susan Weidman Schneider
Marcia Freedman
Letty Cottin Pogrebin
Rabbi Alana Alpert
April Baskin
Tilly Shames
Clare Kinberg

Wednesday, March 13: University of Michigan Museum of Art, 7 - 9:30 PM,
Welcome Reception and screening of *Heather Booth: Changing the World* with Heather Booth

All Thursday and Friday events take place at U-M School of Social Work, Room 1840.

Sessions on Thursday, March 14 : 9 AM-5 PM:
From Radical to Feminist
Periphery and Core: The View from Ann Arbor
Adding Jewish to Feminist
Claiming Identities: Lesbian Jews, Radical Politics, and Secular Jewish Culture

Thursday evening: 7-9:30 PM:
#MeToo in the Context of Jewish Feminism with short performance by Klezmer pioneer, violinist Alicia Svigals

Sessions on Friday, March 15: 8:30 AM - 2 PM:
Feminisms/Jewish Feminisms and the Complication(s) of Israel
Contemporary Leaders Consider the Legacies of Feminism
UM Students' Talk Back: Reflections on Jewish Feminisms/American Visions

MARCH 13–15 2019

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
JEWISH COMMUNAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM
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UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

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Calendar

Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies, Rackham Assembly Hall, 915 E Washington St. During this two day symposium, 18 scholars will look at Sephardic myths of identity from a diachronic perspective, bringing together papers both on the origins of Sephardic exceptionalism within medieval Sephardic communities themselves and on the evolution of such notions under pressure from forced conversion and inquisition, expulsion and diaspora, and ghettoization and emancipation. See article on page ?? 9 a.m.

Back Door Food Pantry: TBE. 4–7 p.m.

Rabbi Rick Jacobs: Future of American Judaism: University of Michigan Museum of Art. Panel discussion with Rabbi Jacobs and Deborah Dash Moore, Karla Goldman and Tilly Shames. **7:30-9:30 p.m.**

Talmud–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. See first Thursday of month for details. 8 p.m. *Thursdays.*

Friday 29

Tot Shabbat Service: TBE. 5:45-6:15 p.m.

Tot Dinner: TBE. 6:15-6:45 p.m.

Shabbat Service with Guest Rabbi Rick Jacobs: TBE. 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Saturday 30

Torah Study: TBE. 8:50–9:50 a.m.

Shabbat Limmud: BIC. Held before Shabbat morning services by Rabbi Robert Dobrusin, this session will offer a lively discussion on Parashat Ha-Shavua, the Torah portion of the week and other traditional texts. 9 a.m.

Tot Shabbat: AAOM. Spirited and lively Tot Shabbat meeting every Saturday. For tots ages 0–5 years old and their families. 11:15 a.m.–noon.

Chapel Service: TBE. 10–11 a.m.

Shabbat services: *See listing at end of the calendar.*

Sunday 31

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidim and discover the beauty and depth of Judaism. 10:30–11:30 a.m. *Sundays.*

Delving into the Prayer Book: TBE. Contact Cantor Hayut, cantorhayut@templebethemeth.org, with questions. 3:30–4:30 p.m.

Kol Halev, the Jewish all volunteer adult choir: TBE. 6:15-7:45 p.m.

Weekly Friday night Shabbat services

Shabbat Service: AAOM. Services held at UM Hillel. Call (734) 994-9258 in advance to confirm time.

Shabbat Service: BIC. 6 p.m.

Shabbat Service: TBE. Tot Shabbat at 6 p.m., followed by tot dinner. Traditional Service at 7:30 p.m. Once a month Middle School Service at 7:30 p.m. For information, call (734) 665-4744.

Shabbat Service: AARC. Every fourth Friday at the JCC. Tot Shabbat from 5:45–6:15 p.m. Pizza for the little ones at 6:15 p.m. Service at 6:30 p.m., followed by vegetarian potluck at 8 p.m. Childcare during service. All are welcome to attend. For information, email info@aarecon.org, phone (734) 445-1910, or visit www.aarecon.org.

Shabbat Service: Chabad. Begins at candle lighting time. Home hospitality available for Shabbat meals and Jewish holidays. Call (734) 995-3276 in advance.

Weekly Shabbat services

Shabbat Services: AAOM. Morning service, 9:30 a.m. and Friday night Kabbalat shabbat, times vary, see website annarborminyan.org for time or contact rabbi@annarborminyan.org)..

Shabbat Services: BIC. 9:30 a.m. For other service times, visit www.bethisrael-aa.org.

Shabbat Services: AARC. Second Saturday of each month at the JCC. 10 a.m. Ta-Shma/Come and Learn. Service begins at 10:30 a.m. Traditional liturgy with music, chanting and contemporary readings and discussion. For information, email info@aarecon.org, phone (734) 445-1910, or visit www.aarecon.org.

Shabbat Services: Chabad. Friday night services at Shabbat candle lighting time. Saturday morning services at 9:45 a.m. Afternoon Mincha services 45 minutes before sundown. Call (734) 995-3276 for Home Hospitality and Meals for Shabbat and Jewish Holidays.

Shabbat Services: Pardes Hannah. Generally meets the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month. Call (734) 663-4039 for more information. 10 a.m. Led by Rabbi Elliot Ginsburg.

Shabbat Services: TBE. Torah Study at 8:50 a.m. Morning Minyan with Rabbi Josh Whinston and Cantor Regina Lambert-Hayut at 9:30 a.m. Sanctuary Service at 10 a.m. most weeks. Call the office at (734) 665-4744 or consult website at www.templebethemeth.org for service details.

Home Hospitality for Shabbat and Holiday Meals: AAOM. Call (734) 662-5805 in advance.

Home Hospitality and Meals: Chabad. Every Shabbat and Holiday. Call (734) 995-3276 in advance.

Frequently listed Phone numbers and addresses of organizations

Ann Arbor Orthodox Minyan (AAOM)
1429 Hill Street 994-5822

Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation (AARC)
2935 Birch Hollow Drive 913-9705

Beth Israel Congregation (BIC)
2000 Washtenaw Ave. 665-9897

Chabad House
715 Hill Street 995-3276

Jewish Community Center (JCC)
2935 Birch Hollow Drive 971-0990

Jewish Cultural Society (JCS)
2935 Birch Hollow Drive 975-9872

Jewish Family Services (JFS)
2245 South State Street 769-0209

Jewish Federation
2939 Birch Hollow Drive 677-0100

Pardes Hannah
2010 Washtenaw Ave. 761-5324

Temple Beth Emeth (TBE)
2309 Packard Road 665-4744

UM Hillel
1429 Hill Street 769-0500

Shabbat Candlelighting		Havdallah	
March 1	6:07 pm	March 2	7:08 pm
March 8	6:15 pm	March 9	7:16pm
March 15	7:23 pm	March 16	8:24 pm
March 22	7:31 pm	March 23	8:32 pm
March 29	7:39 pm	March 30	8:40 pm

Continued

Israeli war corrospondent, continued from page 1

volved. During his career, Anghel has covered conflicts in Croatia, Bosnia, Kosovo, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Haiti, Indonesia, Chechnya, Rwanda, Kenya, Congo (DRC), South Africa, Lebanon, Gaza, Tunisia, Egypt, Iraq and Syria. Mr. Anghel works for the Israel TV's Channel 2 documentary and current affairs program "UVDA." His documentaries have received the "Best TV Documentary" award five times from the Israeli Forum for Documentary Filmmakers, and he was awarded the International Media Awards "Cutting Edge Award" in 2010 for his "superb and unbiased cover of the Middle East".

In addition to his journalistic work, Mr. Anghel founded a humanitarian project to help women raped in the civil war in Congo. Israeli gynecologists set up clinics in the jungles of East Congo and provide on-going guidance to local medical and nursing personnel. Mr. Anghel is a lecturer on world conflicts at Tel Aviv University and the Interdisciplinary College (IDC) in Herzliya and is spending the year in Ann Arbor as a Knight-Wallace Fellow at the University of Michigan.

The event is free and open to the public. RSVP's are appreciated. To register, please visit www.jewishannarbor.org or email events@jewishannarbor.org. For more information, contact Karen Freedland at the Jewish Community Center, 734-971-0990, karenfreedland@jccannarbor.org. ■

Rabbi Rick Jacobs, continued from page 1

just society through *tikkun olam* (social justice work); and foster meaningful connections to Israel.

Among its many initiatives, the URJ owns 18 overnight camps where 10,000 young people live their Judaism every summer. The URJ Biennial attracted 6,000 attendees to its 2017 convention in Boston. Its recent Day of Leadership Learning had 1200 participants in 48 locations across North America. The URJ has numerous youth programs in Israel, including a Sci-Tech camping experience and a high school semester in Israel program. And the Reform Religious Action Center and the Israel Reform Religious Action Center work tirelessly to repair the world, helping to empower its congregations and congregants to make a difference. Current priorities of the URJ include: Audacious Hospitality, Strengthening Congregations, Tikkun Olam, Youth Engagement, and Israel.

We are looking forward to welcoming Rabbi Jacobs and invite you to participate with our congregation on Thursday night, March 28 at UMMA as well as on erev Shabbat at TBE. ■

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Timothy Michling, bagpipes
Aaron Berofsky, violin

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Vitals

Mazel tov

Eli Driscoll on his bar mitzvah, March 2.
Micah Jacobson on his Bar Mitzvah, Saturday, February 23.
Charles Kehoe on his Bar Mitzvah, Saturday, March 2.
Sam Bertcher on his Bar Mitzvah, Saturday, March 9.
Logan Tauber on his Bar Mitzvah, Saturday, March 23.
Spence Nagel on his Bar Mitzvah, Saturday, March 23.

Condolences

Galit Levi Dunietz on the death of her father, Avraham Levi, January 3.
Seth, Rachel, Ethan and David Powsner on the death of their father, Dr. Edward Powsner, on January 11.
Herbert Malinoff on the death of his father, Allen Malinoff, January 21.
Boris Mordukhovich on the death of his mother, Rosa Mordukhovich, January 21.
Andrea Gersh on the death of her son, Jeffrey Gersh, January 22.
Rosalie, Ron, Sara and John Koenig on the death of their son and brother, David Koenig, January 23.
Yael Rothfeld on the death of her grandmother, Matilda (Becker) Post, January 23.
Arthur Riba on the death of his sister, Phyllis Kroll, January 26.
Edmond Nadler on the death of his mother, Marta Nadler, January 27.
Larry Tankanow on the death of his mother, Gertrude Tankanow, also grandmother of Alyse Tankanow, February 7.
Marcie Greenfield on the death of her father, Alvin Greenfield, February 10.
Kirk Brower (Claire Weiner) on the death of his brother, Shaun Brower.

Obituaries

Allen Malinoff, 97, of Ann Arbor, Michigan, died on 21 January 2019.
Born in St. Paul, Minneapolis, Allen moved to Detroit with his family as a young child and grew up there. As a teenager, he learned to fly airplanes at Willow Run and Ann Arbor airports. After America entered WWII, he began flight training with the Civil Aeronautics Administration. He then entered the US Navy and graduated as a Naval Aviator in 1943. Mr. Malinoff served as a fighter pilot aboard the USS Hoggatt Bay aircraft carrier in the Pacific until the end of 1946.

After his military service, he attended Wayne State University. While there, he met his first wife, Rhoda. They married after their graduations in 1949. Allen worked for the Detroit Board of Education for 32 years, primarily as an elementary school principal. They moved to Michigan's upper peninsula after retiring in 1981, where they lived until Rhoda's death in 1989.

In 1990, Mr. Malinoff moved to Ann Arbor. In 1999 he married Ann Arbor native Carole McLean, who died on January 7th, 2019. He is survived by his three children: son, Herb (wife Lynn and their sons, Gabriel and Aaron), daughter, Julie (husband Keith and their daughter Rachel) and daughter, Lauren, as well as Carole's children, Laurie (Kerry), Mitchell (Amanda), Matthew and her six grandchildren. Ira Kaufman Chapel.

Rosa Mordukhovich, 93, of Ann Arbor, Michigan, died on 21 January 2019.
Beloved wife of the late Sholim Mordukhovich. Cherished mother Boris (Margaret) Mordukhovich. Loving grandmother of Lena Lumelsky and Irina (David) Benjamin. Adored great-grandmother of Rebecca, Polly, Mia, Aron, Yael and Natan. Ira Kaufman Chapel.

Jeffrey Gersh, 47, of Ann Arbor, Michigan, died on 22 January 2019.

Beloved son of Andrea Gersh and the late Charles Gersh. He volunteered with Meals on Wheels and he had attended High Point Center and graduated in 1997. Loving brother of Geniene Gersh. Adoring uncle of Emily Cusick-Gersh. Cherished nephew of Douglas and Kim Rosengarten. Dear cousin of Aaron, Ashley, Jonathan and Eric Rosengarten. Ira Kaufman Chapel.

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